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Industrial Estates
Cardiff Road, Barry - Pages 20-23
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IN BUSINESS UPDATE.... Pages 16-17

Vale doctor's climb to help vital charity

by PHILIP IRWIN

MIKE FARDY.

A VALE man has completed the challenging Kilimanjaro climb to raise cash for a cancer charity that helps patients with head and neck cancers.

Mike Fardy is a consultant maxillofacial/head and neck surgeon at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.

He founded the Orofacial Cancer Unit in 1995 and then set up the charity, Face Up Cymru, to help patients suffering from head and neck cancer.

Mike said: "This was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done, but knowing that the money donated will be going to provide specialist services to those suffering from orofacial cance, spurred me on."

It is fair to say that facial cancer does not have a massive fundraising movement behind it, but treating patients successfully can make a huge difference to their lives.

Mr Fardy told The GEM: "Successful surgery is only the first stage in recovery from this most harrowing form of cancer.

"The after-effects of surgery, especially facial disfigurement, loss of speech and problems with swallowing, can have devastating, traumatic effects on patients.

"Patients may feel that they have lost their identity, self-esteem and self-confidence. There may be added stress within the family, marital difficulties, feelings of hurt, humiliation, isolation and depression."

"Face Up Cymru provides these patients with self-help, support services and advice services, to help them get them back on track."

In fact, Mr Fardy was going to be joined on the trek by one of his patients, Joanne Hawkins, who came up with the idea of completing the challenge.

Unfortunately, she sustained a foot injury at home prior to the climb, and had to delay her attempt.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

YSGOL IOLO JOINS LOCAL STORE FOR THE FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Community pioneer Jo Cairns, with young artists from Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg and the Co-op at Cowbridge, teamed up recently for Fairtrade Fortnight.

Pupils were set a homework task of producing posters to display around the store. The quality of the artwork was outstanding and many favourable comments were received from customers and members of staff. In return, the Co-op donated a hamper of Fairtrade goodies for the children and the teachers' staff room.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GEM EDITOR...

THE Conservative Party's four-page wrap around last week's issue has led some readers to take The GEM to task and question our political neutrality. (*All letters received before we went to press are reprinted here and on page 8*).

We fully understand the strong views expressed, but it is important to re-emphasise that this was a commercial ADVERTISEMENT, paid for by the Conservative Party – as was clearly signposted (*twice*) on all four pages of the 'wrap', and it does NOT indicate any editorial bias on this newspaper's part.

In no way should it be confused with The GEM's long-established editorial stance as an objective, apolitical newspaper of record for the whole of our community.

We believe our discerning GEM readers fully understand this, and value our reputation for even-handedness in our editorial columns, something our small, dedicated staff take huge pride in.

As with other newspapers, ours is often a difficult path to tread (particularly when politics rears its head, as at election times!) and we cannot hope to please everyone.

Readers can rest assured, though, that The GEM's impartial editorial policy is, and will remain, firmly unchanged.

DON JOHN
Editor

'Voters can punish attempt to deceive'

I KNOW I speak for others when I express my irritation with the local Conservative party's four-page 'wrapper' to last week's GEM.

This silly device was clearly intended to deceive and the content was as misleading as the layout.

In what purported to be news and readers' comments on important issues of the day, there was no mention of the Conservative party's recent derailed attempt to reduce benefits for the disabled, or the resignation of Iain Duncan Smith and his frustration with a Government he said put party politics before the national interest.

No mention either of the Conservative Government's woeful lack of support for the steel industry, with the resulting impact on Port Talbot and the wider south Wales economy.

These are all issues that impact directly or indirectly on the Vale.

Readers may not be able to prevent The GEM from publishing such propaganda, but we can punish those that try to deceive us by not voting for them in the forthcoming local elections.

In that way, the 'wrapper' will have the opposite effect to that intended and might dissuade the Conservatives and others from force-feeding us such propaganda in future elections.

Huw Lloyd,
Aberthin.

'What does he stand for?'

THE Tories are nothing if not consistent, treating your readers to a four-page advertorial that seeks to mislead us all into believing it is genuine journalism.

...Letters on page 2, The Glamorgan GEM as its masthead, and "*our reporter*" – without identifying who this is.

No doubt his or her wage will be included within the Conservative election expense returns.

Having read all four pages, I am none the wiser as to Ross England's credentials to be an Assembly Member. What is his education, work and life experience or policies?

It is clear he wants to be elected, and wants to do a good job, but what exactly will he do?

Clearly schooled by Alun Cairns to stage photo opportunities and schoolboy stunts (fake parking tickets and for sale notices) what creative policies can he offer?

I want to know whether he supported disability benefit cuts, the bedroom tax, removal of schools from local authority control, or the downgrading of our library services.

As he is against an increase in house building, I assume he does not subscribe to his party promise to create a housebuilding boom to provide sufficient accommodation for all those seeking to buy their first home, or rent, at an affordable price.

I am sure every other candidate in the Vale would welcome the chance to explain their suitability for the post and their policies over a four-page spread, but unlike Ross, would not waste it.

Steve Reed,
Rhoose.

SEE MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON PAGE 8

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- Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'WRAP-AROUND WAS TORY PROPAGANDA'

WHEN it comes to election campaigns, it appears that there is never a level playing field to ensure all political parties have a fair and equal opportunity to win votes.

This is because those parties that can attract the most funds clearly have an unfair advantage.

This inequality was vividly demonstrated once again by the publication in The GEM of March 31, of the 'wrap around' Conservative sheet. This was dressed up to look like news, but was, of course, pure Tory propaganda.

A similar publication appeared as part of The GEM last year before the general election. I wrote then to complain, so I will not repeat the same sentiments here.

Suffice to say, I am again disconcerted that one particular political party seems to be able to afford such a spread and that it appears to be favoured by a newspaper that is delivered free to nearly every home in the Vale.

In addition, I have already received two copies of the 'Glamorgan Chronicle' through my letterbox, purporting to be a local free paper, but which is, in fact, more unadulterated Tory marketing, and which repeats almost word for word what appeared in The GEM on March 31.

Viv Kelly duly took these publications to task in The GEM of March 24.

Is it really fair in a democracy that one party has so much money to spend on such blatant electioneering with biased information that is 'wrapped up' as facts?

Is it appropriate that a local free newspaper seems to support such evident propaganda?

Dr David Ellis,
Cardiff and Vale Liberal Democrats.

'Disgraceful mouthpiece'

WHAT a disgraceful mouthpiece your so-called newspaper has become for the Conservative party! You may as well rename it the Cowbridge Tory and be done with it!

Last Thursday's pathetic advert for the Conservatives was wrapped around the front of your so-called independent newspaper.

I am sick and tired of your Editor propping up a party many of us in the Vale want nothing to do with. Do you think we all drive around in BMW Chelsea tractors?

There is real poverty and hardship, even in Cowbridge, and it's disgusting for you to allow a party that has cut way beyond what is needed, especially to the disabled, to promote itself, using your paper. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

We don't all own holiday homes and earn big wages here, you know. Thank goodness

I wouldn't vote Conservative, if it were my last day on earth.

Paul Francis,
Cowbridge.

'Disappointed' at political propaganda

I picked up my GEM this morning and was astonished to see the wraparound feature.

It was nothing more than four pages of propaganda for the Conservative Party.

I know it said at the top and bottom of the page that it was funded by donations to the Conservatives, but I am disappointed that The GEM should have such a feature, particularly as it had the GEM's normal logo at the top of the page, thus giving the appearance that it was the normal newspaper front page.

I always thought a newspaper was in the business of reporting the news, not taking money from political parties and presenting it in a format that apes the paper's normal style.

I am not a Conservative supporter, but I would feel the same way if any other party had done the same thing.

I remain very disappointed.

Mick Fisher,
Barry.

'Political bias at The GEM?'

I AM writing as a Barry resident of 25 years who has regularly read and relied on The GEM for dependable, unbiased information.

I was disappointed, therefore, to receive last Thursday's edition, which was contained within a wrap-around advertisement, paid for by the Conservative party and designed to look like the regular front page of the newspaper.

Yes, there were a couple of small notices acknowledging that the wrap was a commercial, but the initial impression on seeing the paper was that these were articles written by The GEM's staff.

I understand that political parties are allowed to pay for political advertisements, but I question the policy of The GEM in printing this particular advertisement in the week before the dissolution of the Welsh Assembly, which means there is no time for a reply from the Labour Party.

To allow the Conservative party use of The GEM's distinctive name, typeface and strap-line in this way, is to sacrifice completely any claim to offer a non-partisan coverage of local news during this campaign.

In short, the Conservative party appears to have bought the allegiance of The GEM newspaper and as a result of this, any future articles in your newspaper involving local politics will have to be read knowing that they have been written without objectivity, and are tainted by political bias.

E Williams,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
07 Thur	07.15	10.4	19.28	10.5
08 Fri	07.53	10.8	20.14	10.7
09 Sat	08.38	10.8	20.58	10.8
10 Sun	09.22	10.5	21.42	10.3
11 Mon	10.04	10.2	22.22	9.7
12 Tues	10.54	9.5	23.11	9.3
13 Wed	11.41	8.9	23.59	8.6
14 Thur			12.40	8.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO, Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London EC4M 7LG Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

Local mum and daughter see charity's work in Africa

WHEN most of us think of a holiday, we think sand, sky and sea - but ActionAid supporters Alison Warner and her daughter Joanna Watkins had other plans.

They decided to use their time off to take a life changing trip to the Gambia, to visit the community projects they've been sponsoring with leading international charity, ActionAid.

Alison Warner, from Llanharan, started supporting the charity many years ago, by taking part in their sponsor a child scheme. After supporting three children she was offered the chance to support a whole community instead, through project sponsorship.

"It was very nice to see that those very simple projects, like building a wall to stop the rice fields from flooding, were having a major effect on people's lives. They were so appreciative for so little, it was humbling."

When Alison was planning a holiday, she decided that she wanted to do something different. She decided to visit the people she'd been sponsoring for so long.

On arrival, she was greeted by the charity's team in Gambia, and taken to meet with a community where ActionAid had trained and educated locals to become teachers and provided the materials needed to build a primary school.

When they arrived, they were taken to the primary school, and were surprised to see 164 children in full uniform waiting for them even though it was a school holiday. They shared meals and sang songs and talked about what they did at school, and how their lives were outside of school.

"I think that education is very important, particularly for girls. They were explaining to us how before they had built the primary school, the children had to walk two kilometres to get to school, and the little ones couldn't do it, so they couldn't go to school until they were seven or eight. "

While they were there, the famers showed them their fields and the new wall, and also spoke about their recent bumper crop, all thanks to the wall. This crop had allowed them to become self-sufficient, and start trading, benefitting people outside, as well as inside the local community.

Alison and her daughter had the chance to see how the people they had supported lived. Alison remarked that it was a life-changing experience in particular for her daughter. She then echoed this by saying that she would recommend child sponsorship to anyone,

"You make a big difference with a very small contribution, and having seen for myself I would urge others to support in this way. The impact those projects have on a lot of people's lives is remarkable in so many different ways".

To sponsor a child, or to find out more about ActionAid's work, call 0146 023 8000 or log on to http://actionaid.org.uk.

Alpha course in Cowbridge

A COWBRIDGE Alpha course begins on April 12.

The nine-week course is for anyone who is curious about faith. The presentations are DVD-based followed by small discussion groups, which are designed to encourage conversation and explore the basics of Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.

To date, 27 million people have attended across 169 countries and in 112 languages. Anyone from the local community is invited and it is organised by the Vale Church in association with Costa Coffee.

There will be a course overview evening in Costa Coffee, Cowbridge, on Tuesday, April 12, 7pm-8.30pm, with a free drink and cake, to find out more.

For more information, contact Dale 07493 182177.

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ARTHUR AND MERLIN LEAD PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION IN VILLAGE

PALM SUNDAY saw two donkeys named Arthur and Merlin leading the Palm Sunday procession from St Cadoc's church around Llancarfan village.

This was the first time for two years that the donkeys had been able to attend such a celebration outside of the Amelia Trust Farm.

People waved palm crosses and branches, walking in memory of Jesus entering Jerusalem. This marked the beginning of Holy week.

People also attended the annual Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday services. This was completed with a packed church for the Easter Sunday morning service.

Mrs Sue Taylor, the churchwarden, said: "The children were thrilled to pet donkeys Arthur and Merlin. It really made their day. The children were thrilled to follow the donkeys and will always remember this special day."

Canon Derek Belcher, the parish priest, said: "You could see the joy in the faces of people who came to the Palm Sunday parade. I gave a special blessing to Arthur and Merlin for all their hard work. They were so caring towards the children."

St Cadocs is holding its next family service on Sunday, April 3 at 11.15am and look forward to welcoming people to this celebration.

Sylvia tells hilarious tales of a working life

AT the March meeting of Cowbridge Friendship Club, when members were informed the speaker Sylvia Scarf was giving a talk about herself, they were all thinking 'what a boring subject', but they were certainly in for a treat when Sylvia started talking.

Glossing over her early years, first of all living in Cornwall, then when her father died, moving back to Hirwaun and eventually attending Exeter University, Sylvia gave a hilarious account of her working life, and experiences.

It was excellent entertainment, and the hall was ringing with laughter. Time went by very quickly and everyone was disappointed when her talk came to an end, with the culmination of Sylvia going to Buckingham Palace to receive her OBE.

We always have a variety of activities at the club, with many craft days and speakers, which we hope caters for everyone's taste.

This is a very friendly and happy group and we meet on the last Thursday of every month (transport is provided if required).

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about our Friendship Club, please call 01656 668446.

Pat Smith

Jilly was a star with the Cubs!

COWBRIDGE Cubs have had a good few weeks before the Easter holidays. We have had a speaker from Guide Dogs for the Blind to tell us all about the hard work that they do.

They came with one of the beautiful puppy for the cubs to meet. Jilly made a lot of new friends! We have made Guide Dogs for the Blind our charity this year. We have lots to do in the next few weeks; we are also looking forward to Cub camp in the summer.

We have tickets for sale for our fashion show on April 15 at our Scout hut. The fashion show is being put on by Fat Face of Cowbridge.

Tickets are on sale at Fat Face store in Cowbridge. The doors open 7pm to start at 7.30pm. We are hoping that we get lots of support like last year.

CHRISTINE MALLETT, Cub Scout Leader

IN BRIEF

Surgeries

COUNS Geoff Cox, Hunter Jarvie and Andrew Parker, Cowbridge ward members on the Vale Council, will hold a surgery this Saturday, April 9 from 11am – 12.30pm in the robing room of Cowbridge Town Hall (west door entrance). No appointment necessary.

Charity tea

LLANCARFAN Fundraisers are hosting a charity Afternoon Tea on Saturday, April 9 at 2pm in Llancarfan village hall.

Teas £5, raffle with money prizes. The charity for this afternoon is Velindre Hospital.

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All the fun of the Easter fayre... *complete with Mr Nibbles!*

THE free Easter fayre organised by Cowbridge Rotary on Sunday, March 27, was a huge success.

After a fun Easter egg hunt around the old hall gardens, Mr Nibbles, the Easter bunny, gave out gold, silver and bronze medals, along with Easter eggs and cuddly bunnies, to the excited winners of the Easter bonnet competition.

The proud winners, and other participants, then showed off their Easter bonnets on a parade around the old hall and physic garden. There were tasty treats and cakes available from the stalls and traditional games to be played – e.g. 'trap the rat', where you have to catch the 'rat' as it shoots out of the drain pipe!

Victoria McCarthy

2117 CADETS HAVE EASTER OUTINGS

TIME off school at Easter can be good, but looking for things to fill your time can be a challenge...

Not so for cadets from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron RAF Air Cadets.

Flt Sgt (ATC) Gould and Flt Sgt (ATC) Peckham took seven cadets from Kenfig Hill and 2426 (Pencoed) Sqn on a trip to RAF Cosford over the Easter weekend.

Part of the visit saw the group travel to Manchester, to view the recently-opened Avro museum at the old Woodford airfield site, where the old fire station has been converted into the museum building.

One of the highlights of the visit was getting to sit in the cockpit of an Avro Vulcan, one of the UK's nuclear bomb carrying aircraft used as a deterrent during the cold war years.

The museum boasts having the nose section of a Vulcan bomber inside the museum and a complete Vulcan bomber outside.

The museum and all exhibits are looked after by volunteers, some of whom are former Vulcan pilots.

Next on the agenda was Manchester Airport's viewing park, where they were able to look inside a Trident passenger aircraft, and also in a hangar could see the supersonic passenger plane, Concorde.

The next day they went to RAF Cosford to visit their museum and exhibits. The museum is home to a large collection of aircraft of all types. Here a whole building is dedicated to the Cold War, and contains examples of all three V bombers, the Valiant, Victor and Vulcan, amongst a selection of fighters used to challenge Russia's advances toward UK airspace in the 1960s.

Later in the week, seven cadets and three staff from Kenfig Hill and Pencoed went to MoD St Athan for a tour of the new Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter facility, a visit arranged by Flt Sgt (ATC) Gould of 2347 (Porthcawl) Sqn.

The group was welcomed by an ex-cadet, Mike Ratcliffe, who is now an apprentice engineer at the base. Mike told the cadets that his cadet experience and training had greatly assisted in his application for the job.

They also had a talk by a pilot, who explained that the majority of pilots in the Search and Rescue (SAR) around the UK are ex-military helicopter pilots.

The cadets were shown two types of helicopter at the base, the AW139, built in Italy, which is currently carrying out the SAR duties, and the new AW189, built at Yeovil in the UK, which is still in its experimental stages, but when complete will become the new SAR helicopter.

The group was shown the operations room from which the crews operate and receive emergency calls, and both helicopters flew training missions during their visit.

The helicopter crew has a maximum of 15 minutes to get airborne for emergency calls, but they are often up well before this. The SAR facilities are fully manned to the extent of its own fire crew and control centre, which can work independently at MoD St Athan.

The cadets and staff thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Bristow Helicopters SAR facility and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned for their kind hospitality.

The RAF Air Cadets offer a wide range of activities and interest that would appeal to most young people; so if you are aged between 12 and school year 8 up to just before your 17th birthday, why not come along to an RAF Air Cadet Squadron near you and see what we can offer.

Details of local Squadrons can be found by googling No3 Welsh Wing Air Cadets or for 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron email adj.2117@aircadets.org.

LINDSAY THOMAS

Local doctor's charity climb

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

After flying to Kenya, Mr Fardy set off on his trek on December 28, and after walking poli poli, which is Swahili for slow, slow, got to base camp on January 3.

The summit climb began at 11pm and walking through the night he saw the sunrise at 6am and eventually reached Stella Point at 8.30am – only to be told that the summit was at Uhuru Point, another hour away!

Mike reached the summit of Kilimanjaro, which is 19,350 feet at 9.30am and after some photos started his descent. This presented its own challenges underfoot as shale and loose gravel made it tricky.

At 2.30pm he arrived at summit camp and after a quick bowl of soup, he made his way to the Millennium camp – a grand total of 22 hours walking.

To date Mike has raised almost £14,000 for Face Up Cymru.

Hayley Dixon, head of operations and delivery for University Dental Hospital said: "I'd like to congratulate Mike on completing this amazing challenge.

"His commitment and dedication to providing the best possible care for his patients is demonstrated by determination to finish this trek.

"The funds raised from this trek will make a massive difference to patients using Face Up Cymru."

"I'd like to thank everyone for their donations to Face Up Cymru. This money will help to finance the appointment of a clinical nurse specialist; a dietician and a speech and language therapist, enabling patients to have the best care available to them.

"Face Up Cymru works closely with multi-disciplinary teams at the University Hospital of Wales, as well as the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant.

Mr Fardy added: "Dedicated staff at these hospitals concentrate not only on successful surgery and physical recovery, but also on rehabilitation, which helps patients resume a normal life."

To donate to Face Up Cymru, visit: www.justgiving.com/mikefardy.

If anyone wishes to help in any way with the support group – talks; spiritual aid – contact Mike by email at: Michael.fardy@wales.nhs.uk

Hi-tech look for local business!

LONGSTANDING Cowbridge business Herbert R Thomas (HRT) has refurbished its town office to update its image and give its customers access to the latest technologies and services.

Refurbishment includes a new seating area for customers, a modernised colour scheme and signage to coincide with the company's rebrand, which was introduced at the start of the year.

It also includes a large screen in the office that profiles the latest properties and an illuminated window display with digital screens.

Andrew Thomas, director of HRT, said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the new look at our Cowbridge branch and we'd like to thank our customers for their support during the process.

"This investment will allow us to combine our years of sector experience with the latest technologies to offer the very best facilities in a comfortable stylish office. It very much fits in with our ethos of 'traditional values, modern approach.

"The team are really pleased with the new look and we have already had some fantastic feedback from customers."

Table tennis winners at the Cowbridge U3A

The table tennis tournament was a fierce competition for Cowbridge U3A.

THE table tennis section of the Cowbridge U3A has now been in existence for just over three years, and in that time the standard of play has certainly improved, especially with some members who had never played table tennis before.

It came as no surprise, therefore, that when we held our table tennis tournament, there was strong competition in the mixed doubles, but also plenty of laughter amongst the players – which culminated with the overall winners being Leslie Avery and Geoff Rose. But this was no easy final as they held off fierce competition from opponents Elaine Bevan and John Ryder.

Considering Elaine has not been a member of the table tennis section all that long, all credit to her and John for putting up such a fight.

Now it's back to the drawing board for all the other members, to see if they can beat the current winners in the next tournament.

PAT SMITH

Go to the **Cowbridge GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk

Christians united at Vale Messy Church!

Deacon John Mullin, Canon Martyn Davies and Pastor Tom Pridham, at Messy Church.

MEMBERS of three different churches in a Vale village have joined together to launch a new Messy Church.

The ecumenical venture between Anglicans, Baptists and Roman Catholics in Peterston-super-Ely shows how the churches of St Peter's, Croes-y-Parc Baptist and St Francis Roman Catholic Church, Ely are working together as part of the Church in Wales' 2020 Vision strategy for growth.

Messy Church, which is growing in popularity throughout the diocese, centres around adults and children gathering together to take part in arts and crafts, enjoy a short story, song or prayer and share a meal.

Around 35 adults and children met together in the community hall for the first Messy Church in Peterston-super-Ely.

"Our first Messy Church was a lot of fun and everyone is looking forward to the next one. It's a small village with a lot of young families and it makes sense to work together," said diocesan lay training officer and one of the co-ordinators Mrs Julie Davies.

Canon Martyn Davies, Pastor Tom Pridham and Deacon John Mullin who work together on many ecumenical projects were also delighted with its success and believe Messy Church will be a valuable new ministry tool in reaching out to children and young families in the area.

Canon Martyn Davies said: "It's really important for the children and their families to see us working together as Christians in the community. Messy Church provides us with a fun way of witnessing and sharing the Gospel message with people of all ages. It is great to see the children learning about their faith in such a fun and messy environment!"

Mrs Lesley Cox, the regional co-ordinator for Messy Church and children's adviser to the Diocese, said: "We have a number of Messy Churches in the diocese which operate on an ecumenical basis. I think that this is really positive and exciting. It certainly makes sense for Christians of different denominations to work together in their communities."

Peterston/Ely Messy Church meets once every half term on a Thursday after school. For more information, contact Canon Martyn Davies: fr.martyn@sky.com or on 01446 760498.

Anne and Bill celebrate their diamond anniversary!

ANNE and Bill Hogg of Fairoaks, Dinas Powys, celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years) on March 26.

Bill, originally from Scotland, and Anne from Lancashire, met in 1956 and had one daughter. They lived for many years in London before moving to Wales after retiring from their chauffeured limousine business.

They had a congratulatory telegram from the Queen, which their family had framed for them as a surprise.

They were surrounded by their family of daughter and son-in-law, granddaughters and great grandchildren.

They were treated to an Easter weekend away in Aberystwyth staying in a hotel with beautiful sea views and rounded off their celebrations with a trip on the Vale of Rheidol Steam Train to Devils Bridge, although it was a bit nippy… but they thoroughly enjoyed their day and the magnificent views.

Their daughter said it was a lovely weekend away, apart from being a bit wet and windy, and she congratulated her parents on their achievement and thanked them for their support and love over the years.

Good news follows bus talks

WHEN the Friends and Neighbours group from Age Connect visited Jane Hutt AM at the Senedd, they raised concerns about the No 98 Bus.

"They wanted the 98 service to continue from King Square via Morrisons to Cardiff. Bus users, especially those with a disability, have been disadvantaged by the break in service through the town," Ms Hutt explained.

She organised a meeting with Cardiff Bus and resident Margaret Evans joined her to put the bus users' case – which also included the call for better bus services at the weekend and on bank holidays.

Last week, news broke that Cardiff Bus is looking to operate the 98 bus service from King Square back to Morrisons on weekdays from April 25 – to link with the 94 service to Cardiff.

Local art group's annual exhibition

PENTYRCH Art Group will hold their 21st annual exhibition at Pentyrch village hall on Sunday, May 15 from 10am until 6pm.

Admission is free and free refreshments are served. There is ample free parking and good disabled access.

Members will be exhibiting over 150 new paintings, many of local scenes. There will also be a selection of cards available, made by members. A social event not to be missed!

PRAISE FOR PAPER FIRM AT LLANDOW

Jane Hutt AM with MD Dave Phelps, Christine Cook (sales executive) and Gavin Salmon (branch manager).

THE success of the South Wales Paper Team on Llandow Industrial Estate was praised by Jane Hutt AM this week.

The company, which emerged out of the ashes of the South Wales Paper Company in September 2014, has recently increased its staff and doubled its logistics capability.

She commented: "It was good to hear about the company's success. It is great for them and great for the Vale. I had a really positive meeting with the company."

Managing director Dave Phelps said: "All of us in SWPT are very grateful to Jane Hutt for the support and encouragement she has given in helping us create employment and invest in the Vale.

"It is an excellent environment in which to find staff, build their skills and consequently expand the business."

FocusBARRY to hear talk on church project

THE next FocusBARRY meeting will take place at the West End Club on Wednesday evening, April 13 at 7pm.

Following the very successful and innovative refurbishment and use of the Pumphouse, Simon Baston of DS Properties will tell about his next scheme for the United Reform Church on Windsor Road.

His plans are about converting this iconic building into a variety of home and office facilities from single occupiers to large families, where there will be an opportunity to live, work and play in this wonderful building.

Debra Cleland from the Weycock Cross group will also update members on events relating to the two parcels of land at the north west corner of Barry. **DH**

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and Welsh business owner Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

"Cloudy2Clear GUARANTEE All Customers That An Average Quote Will Take No Longer Than 20 MINS!!!"

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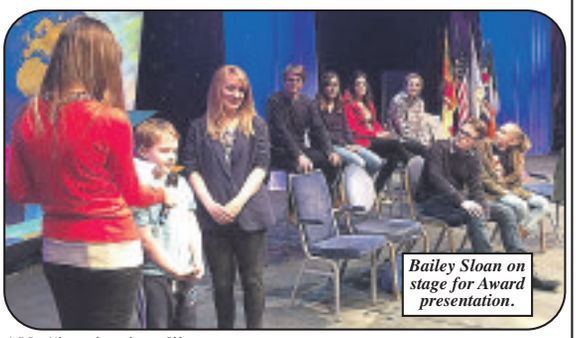
Bailey Sloan celebrating receiving his reward.

Bailey (8) wins Rotary's Young Citizen award



Bailey Sloan on stage for Award presentation.

AN "inspirational" eight-year-old from Barry has won Rotary International's Young Citizen Award, in recognition of his "positive community work".

The Barry club nominated Bailey Sloan, aged 8, who carried out 100 acts of kindness in his home town, spurred on by his mum, Lisa, who captured his work on film.

Bailey has been diagnosed with ADHD, PDAS autism and Sensory Perception Disorder. His mum wanted to teach him about empathy and they came up with a plan to carry out good deeds.

It included leaving positive notes for people, clearing litter from the beach, and helping tidy the trolleys at the supermarket.

The youngster is now carrying out another 100 random acts of kindness and recently ran 5km for the Ty Hafan charity for children with life-limiting conditions at Sully.

Judges of the Young Citizen Award chose from almost 50 entries from across the UK and Ireland. Bailey joined four other winners to receive their awards on stage at the 91st Rotary conference on Saturday, April 2 in Bournemouth, hosted by TV presenter Ellie Crisell.

Winner Bailey Sloan with his mum Lisa.

As well as receiving a trophy, Bailey also received £500 to go towards his chosen charities Llamau (a homelessness charity in Wales for vulnerable young people) and the Cats Protection.

Bailey said: "Kindness is the key to happiness. I am extremely happy to have been picked to win. I love my mummy more than anything in the whole world, and I'm incredibly happy about being picked for the Young Citizen Award. Do I get to keep the award forever? Thank you Barry Rotary Club."

Launched in 2007, the Young Citizen Awards were created to recognise people under the age of 25 who have demonstrated their commitment to citizenship through various activities.

Rotary president Paul Halstead said: "We were pleased to nominate Bailey for this prestigious award. He is a delightful young man who, with the help and devotion of his mum Lisa, is working hard to overcome some quite severe challenges. Well done Bailey and congratulations Lisa!"

Eve Conway, vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, added: "The achievements of these young people are outstanding and serve as an inspiration to us all. Bailey shows such kindness to everyone he meets, and his activities are something we can all aspire to."

For more information about Rotary's youth competitions, visit: www.rotarygbi.org/what-we-do/youth-competitions/.

Brothers get emergency call out on Mother's Day

Matt and Dan Church
Photo by Ben Evans

A RECENT call out for Penarth's volunteer lifeboat crews brought together two brothers, both experienced crew members, but usually based in stations 100 miles apart.

Matt Church (31) and brother Dan Church (27), were called away during Mother's Day celebrations to go to the aid of a broken down vessel. The six-metre RIB was towed back by the Penarth lifeboat to its home mooring at Cardiff Bay.

Dan is a volunteer crew member at Little and Broad Haven in Pembrokeshire and joined the RNLI seven years ago. Matt, a volunteer at Penarth RNLI, followed in his brother's footsteps in joining the crew a year later.

Matt said: "We were both brought up on the water in Pembrokeshire, so joining the RNLI seemed natural to both of us. We are very close as brothers so it felt second nature, we're naturally on the same wavelength.

"Even though we've both been volunteering for a number of years, we've not been at sea together before. The call came while we were in Penarth for Mother's Day. Mum was fine with it, and proud we were called out to help together. My flat overlooks the channel so the family were watching the whole shout from my balcony."

Kidney Wales Walk for Life marks its 10th anniversary

THIS year, the Kidney Wales Walk for Life is especially poignant as it is the 10 year anniversary of the death of my husband, John (Hot John) Taylor.

In 2004 my son, Richard Taylor, had died tragically young. However, he donated his organs and helped six people live or improve their lives.

As Kidney Wales were instrumental in setting up the Organ Donor Card, my husband John and I decided we would continue to support Kidney Wales and proceeded to join the Walk for Life each year.

Even though we had organised the event 10 years ago on March 19, 2006, we were unable to take part as John died of a heart attack that morning just before the Kidney Wales Walk for Life began. The family bravely carried it on nonetheless.

Once again, registration will begin at 11am when T-shirts and a certificate will be issued.

We ask that you bring any sponsor money with you so that it can be sent in ASAP, or telephone 01446 744834 for sponsor forms.

Please leave your name, telephone number and address. Alternatively, you can donate to my JustGiving page https://www.justgiving.com/Gaynor-Taylor3.

As usual, the two-mile route we use is from Morrisons car park, down Broad Street, along The Parade, under the railway tunnel to Romilly Park Road, past the triangles, down Park Avenue, up Broad Street and back to Morrisons.

I look forward to seeing you all on April 24.

GAYNOR TAYLOR

Barry Round Table's Easter 'eggstravaganza'

David Beadle, the Easter Bunny, Kellyn Beadle and Barry Dyer.

BARRY Round Table have had a busy time recently, with events in February and March while planning this year's activities.

Spokesman David Beadle said: "Round Table allows its members to 'Do More in Our Community' and we have been pleased to welcome several new members.

"During Valentine's weekend we asked people to nominate a man in their life for a VIP night out with us, and that lucky winner was Tam Kerr who had a night with us at iCombat Bristol and Zaza Bazaar after.

"We were also joined on the night by members from Abergavenny and Tredegar Round Table. It was great to have Tam along and we hope to see him come along to another Barry Round Table night soon.

"This month Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Tesco and Waitrose, who donated Cadbury's Cream Eggs to us to give away at Barry Town United's match against Cardiff Met.

"The presence of an Easter Bunny (who was named 'Runny Babbit' by Evie Woodfin) was also a huge hit with the kids.

"Barry Town United are a great supporter of Barry Round Table and have helped us out massively throughout the year with use of the venue, donations and allowing us to collect funds to go towards local good causes and charities.

"We are always looking for help so that we can do more. If anyone can help us to make a difference – or indeed knows of anyone in need of support – email us with as much detail as possible at *barry@roundtable.org.uk*

"Park Crescent Sainsbury's also donated 100 Easter Eggs to us which were donated to Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity, Ty Iolo and Ty Robin Coch. Without the support of Sainsbury's and the other stores we wouldn't have been able to do this. Thank you!

"To finish off the month, we asked the public to nominate anyone who they thought deserved a little thank you in the way of our Easter Bundle. We received 47 nominations and to say it was hard to choose a deserving winner would be an understatement.

"Brandon and Megan Preece (nominated by Lynda Allen) were the lucky pair to win the bundle.

"Finally, on April 2, we held our AGM to celebrate, honour and welcome in the new Tabling year. If you're male, aged 18-45 and would like to know more about what we do, why not drop us a line and come to our next event?

"Ladies, don't be left out – Round Table has a sister organisation for young women called Ladies Circle! Look them up and find the nearest club to you – or contact them about starting your own. Visit: *ladiescircle.co.uk*."

Dinas Powys Scouts tour HMS Monmouth

1st Dinas Powys Scout group on their visit to HMS Monmouth.

ON March 23, 10 Beavers, 10 Cubs, 10 Scouts and Leaders from the 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group had an hour and a half tour of *HMS Monmouth*, which was anchored in Cardiff Bay.

They thoroughly enjoyed it and were given a plaque to commemorate their tour.

Also on March 20, Cubs from the group spent a very pleasant weekend at Amelia Trust Farm. While there, they gained four badges; the naturalist badge, DIY, night away and hike away.

I would like to thank my assistant two leaders from the 6th Penarth and the ladies who came to help prepare the food.

On Saturday, May 7, the group are holding a jumble sale in their HQ on Highwalls Road, Dinas Powys at 1.30pm, admission 50p. **IR**

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

Local golf club looks forward to a new season

IT is over a year since St Andrews Major Golf Club repositioned itself as a nine-hole course, and it is marking the occasion with a special offer for new members (*see advert on this page*).

And it is well timed, as The Masters starts today (Thursday) and nothing is more likely to get golfers old and new itching to get back out on the course.

Of course, plenty of members at St Andrews Major still play 18 holes, and the total layout is over 5,000 yards, so it is a good test.

However, people's lifestyles are changing, and the chance to play nine holes and complete a game in less than two hours is a useful option in a busy world! Buggies are available too.

Bear in mind also that the course has excellent drainage, and unlike some local courses, it is a very rare event for it to be closed, so membership is definitely a 12-month deal.

The club is also proud to announce that it has been listed by the Vale of Glamorgan Registrar as a venue for hosting marriage and civil partnerships.

To complement that, the club's new 'in-house' caterers, Wendy and Gerard McGrath, have just been awarded a five-star 'score on the door' by the local FSA.

Gerard McGrath commented: "We are excited to have these endorsements from the Vale Council. We are looking forward to extending our family business within the golf club and continue to offer an excellent service for all the club's catering requirements and continue with our popular Sunday carvery, while adding kids' and pensioners' specials to the weekly menu."

Returning to golf, the club recently completed a refurbishment of its driving range, which has 12 bays (all under cover) and floodlights – and range balls are only £1 a basket!

It all makes St Andrews Major an ideal place to learn the game – especially as one of Wales' longest established golf instructors, John Hastings, continues to run his 'Natural Golf Academy' at the club.

John has vast experience of teaching new and experienced golfers of all ages, and any newbie will be in safe hands.

For all enquiries, telephone 01446 722227 or contact Lesley Thomas at secretary@standrewsmajorgolfclub.com www.standrewsmajorgolfclub.com

Choral concert in Bethel

COWBRIDGE Choral Society is joining with the Pontypridd society once again to present the next concert on April 23.

The main work will be 'The Armed Man' by Karl Jenkins, together with Parry's 'I Was Glad', Vaughan Williams' 'Toward The Unknown Region', Handel's 'Zadok The Priest' and Sibelius' 'Finlandia'. The City of Cardiff Symphony Orchestra will be conducted by Geoff Ryan.

The concert begins at 7pm in the Bethel Baptist Church in Pontyclun, and tickets are now available from Davies the Newsagent, 38 The High Street, and choir members.

New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential.

Rehearsals take place at the United Free Church, Westgate St (opposite the police station) at 7.30 pm on Thursdays.

ATLANTIC COLLEGE STUDENTS PLANNING A GLOBAL PROJECT

The solar modules at UWC Atlantic College.

UWC Atlantic College in St Donats has become one of the first in its group to be supplied with solar panels as part of a global energy scheme.

Solar energy company PROINSO donated the new solar equipment to UWC Atlantic College and now intends to do the same to the 14 other United World Colleges (UWC) around the world later this year.

The aim is for students in Wales to compare renewable data with peers around the world, to see how different climates impact on energy usage at schools in countries such as Canada, China, Costa Rica, Norway, Singapore and Swaziland.

The two donated REC solar modules have been set up in the college's 'Valley', an on-site kitchen garden. They will primarily power a greenhouse run by students which houses an assortment of vegetables and plants, while also allowing them to experiment with different food growth techniques.

Asbjorn Damhus, a teacher within the environmental faculty at UWC Atlantic College, said: "We are extremely grateful for this donation from PROINSO. We have for many years talked about and studied photovoltaics, so this is exciting for both staff and students.

"We will be experimenting with growing herbs and vegetables using LED growth lights and hydroponic techniques that require pumps. The PV panels are part of a larger picture, teaching sustainable lifestyles to the future inhabitants of the planet.

"As an added bonus we hope to do comparative studies of solar power viability in all UWC locations worldwide."

ST ANDREWS MAJOR GOLF CLUB

Coldbrook Road East, Nr Cadoxton, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF63 1BL.

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- Midweek - £295
- 7 Day - £395
- Student - £150
- Junior - £50

12 bay undercover & floodlit driving range.

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£8 for 9 holes. £12 for 18 holes.
Weekend green fees:
£10 for 9 holes. £15 for 18 holes.
(After 12pm weekday rates apply)

Buggies/Club Hire/ Golf shoes/ available to hire.

Catering provided by our 5* caterers 'McGraths'.
Sunday Carvery: 1 course £8.50. Book in advance pay only £8, 2 course £10, 3 course £12. Under 10's main meal only £5.
Hire our beautiful conservatory for your special occasion / Courtesy Hire for Wales/ Buffets start from £3.

Newly appointed Wedding Ceremony Venue in the Vale for 2016

Lessons available with our golf professional, John Hastings.

Tel: 01446 722227 www.standrewsmajorgolfclub.com

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Innuendo worthy of Donald Trump'

IT was misleading of The GEM to present Conservative propaganda in the format it did last week, starting with the very first sentence: "Our reporter has witnessed the swelling of support... etc."

One immediately assumes this was the evidence of a GEM reporter, not some item from a Conservative canvasser.

This wrapper is largely based on the most recent issue of the 'Vale of Glamorgan Chronicle,' but is more restrained in tone, perhaps going to a wider readership. Do all voters in the Vale have the Vale Chronicle?

The Chronicle says that car parking charges have been dropped "as a result of the campaign Ross England organised to stop them," perhaps forgetting the work done by Jane Hutt AM, Gwyn John and other local councillors, and by Alun Cairns; this has become a thank you to all his little helpers.

How long does it take for a statement or an allegation to become a fact? How often does it have to be repeated? Think of Winston Churchill and the Tonypandy miners. Where is the truth?

In The GEM, there are five facts – each one of which is tendentious. My forecast is that the Labour party will lose seats but they will keep power with another party, probably Plaid Cymru. Ask the bookies.

In the Chronicle, Ross England (or is it the Conservative party agent?) tries to link Jane Hutt with Jeremy Corbyn. This is the sort of innuendo worthy of Donald Trump.

The possibility of the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff amalgamating certainly fills Vale people with unease, but it is part of a wider issue that we have too many county councils, and councillors, in Wales.

The situation of Cardiff Council and the Vale Council is unusual in that both are led by minority Labour groups, so this could all change after the next local elections.

This will have more influence on urban development than Ross England's claim, in the Chronicle, 'to scrap the excessive top down housing targets and stop the merger.'

It is likely that Cardiff will be spreading northwards as new land becomes available.

Vivian Kelly,
Llantwit Major.

Actions before propaganda

WITH an election coming, it is always important to put politicians' claims under the microscope.

When Plaid Cymru proposed a Dinas Powys bypass as part of the Local Transport Plan 2015-30, Conservative councillors voted against it.

The reason that we have spent the past four years fighting unnecessary housing development at Weycock Cross, is because the Conservatives included it in their Local Development Plan to develop nearly 10,000 houses back in 2012.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council passed plans for an incinerator and an ash processing plant on Barry Docks because Conservative and Labour politicians supported it, while Plaid Cymru councillors opposed.

It is by parties' actions that we know their true beliefs, not their pre-election propaganda. When politicians change their spots to win votes, they shouldn't be trusted.

As a county councillor since 2012, I'm happy to stand on my record – and to defend it.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry
(Plaid Cymru – Party of Wales candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan).

Journey goes with a hitch

WE would like to thank all the kind gentlemen and ladies who stopped to help us when our caravan became detached from our car, not far from Llantwit Major on Tuesday, March 29.

Within minutes of it happening, we had many offers of help, for which we were extremely grateful. Remarkably, no other cars were involved and there was no damage to our car or caravan.

We were able to continue our journey to west Wales and had an enjoyable holiday in and around Pembrokeshire. Thank you all so much.

John and Linda Bailey,
Llantwit Major.

ENTHUSIASTIC CAMPAIGNER

I WAS surprised to read so many letters in last week's GEM criticising Ross England's Vale of Glamorgan Chronicle. We are often told that politicians are out of touch and don't make the effort to engage with local voters – and instead take us all for granted.

It is pleasing that here in the Vale, Mr England takes the time and effort to keep us updated on what is going on. Ross is an enthusiastic local campaigner and I hope he keeps up the good work.

Elin Bowen, Dinas Powys.

'People will believe that it is news'

I AM shocked and concerned that for the second time in about a year, The GEM has shown a flagrant disregard for editorial independence.

Allowing the Conservative party to effectively buy the ability to pretend that the propaganda that they put in their faux paper, 'The Barry Chronicle', is actually newsworthy articles within a widely-distributed newspaper, is a poor decision.

Given the amount of letters in the latest issue with regard to the scaremongering and underhand tactics of the Tory candidate for the Assembly and disappointment in the current MP's stances in Parliament, it seems a rather odd if, perhaps, financially-driven choice.

I'm sad that The GEM has effectively been bought by the Tories. I'm sad that The GEM has forgone journalistic integrity.

I'm most sad that this may, unfortunately, be seen by people who believe that this is news, and, therefore, be swayed in judgement.

I expect better from The GEM, particularly after doing the same last year.

M Faulkner,
Barry.

Why weep for Vale?

THE GEM's Letters pages and political flyers coming through my door warn me that my vote may lead to the Vale "being wiped off the map".

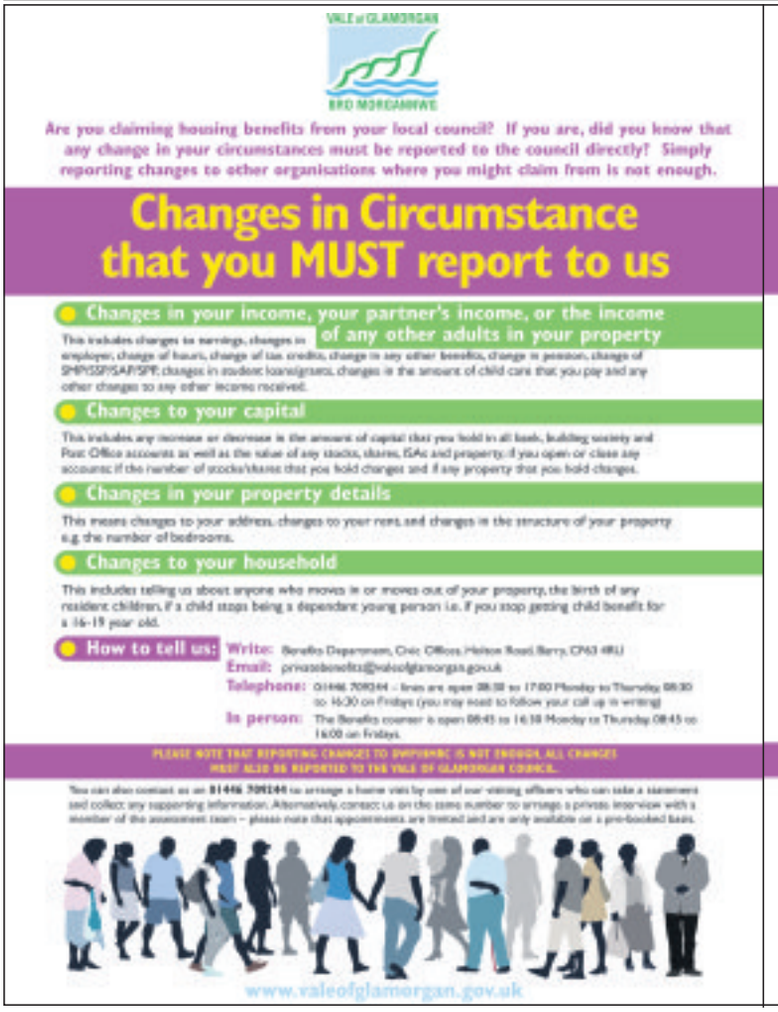
This apocalyptic vision is an odd way to discuss changes to unitary authority boundaries designed to save money.

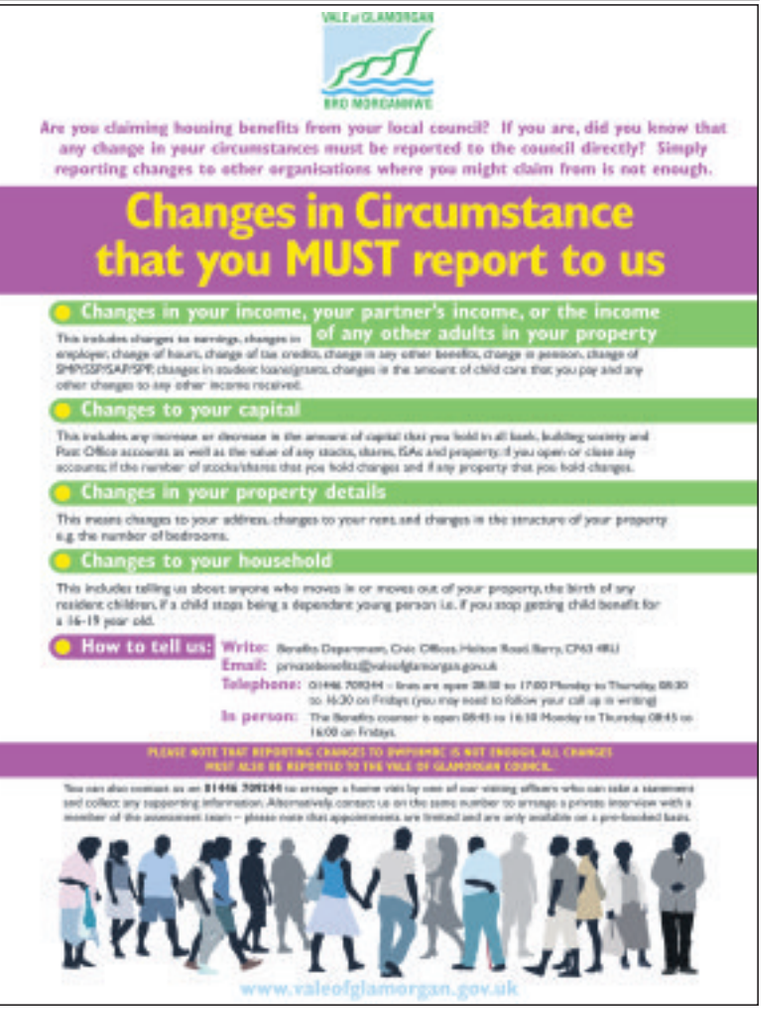
Your readers (and those making these predictions) would do well to remember that the Vale of Glamorgan has only existed since 1996 and that prior to this, most of it was in the same county as Cardiff with a small part linked to Bridgend.

Indeed, since local government was created, the Vale has usually been linked to Cardiff.

There are arguments for and against mergers, but people should stop trying to bring history into it, to defend a county that is barely 20 years old!

David Heald,
Llantwit Major.





The rural Vale plans to be more dog friendly...

WHAT does it take for a destination to be friendly to dogs and for dogs to be friendly to the destination?

Creative Rural Communities, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, is launching a 'dog friendly pilot' in the rural Vale to find out!

The pilot will look at the pros and cons of being dog friendly in the Vale, learning from examples around the UK and defining what 'dog friendly' actually means.

What does dog friendly accommodation look like? What can visitors and their dogs do when they visit the Vale? How can they find out where the best walks are?

In addition to identifying dog friendly features, the pilot will look to promote the importance of responsible dog ownership. For example, making sure that owners are aware where dogs can be allowed off their leads and where they have to stay on their leads, and that owners pick up after their dogs.

Following the initial piece of research, a number of the factors identified will be introduced for local businesses to trial. This will take place between October 2016 and January 2017, to see how they work in practice.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "We hope that this pilot will benefit many businesses in the Vale, including those that are already dog friendly and those that have never considered what it means. It will be a fantastic opportunity to learn how we can tap into ways of attracting more visitors and their dogs to the region, with responsible dog ownership in mind."

The dog friendly pilot has received funding from the Vale Council and the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014–2020, which is funded by the Welsh Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and administered by Creative Rural Communities.

For more information on the pilot, or to register an interest in taking part, e m a i l create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
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'MAN VAN' VISITS THE VALE

RIGHT: The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan with Dr Rachel Iredale, head of the cancer support team and the ManVan team.

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Fred Johnson, recently visited the 'ManVan' – a converted 38ft American-style motorhome, when it was parked at Barry waterfont.

The leading cancer charity Tenovus Cancer care is working with Prostate Cancer UK (with funding from men's health charity Movember) to bring the UK's first ManVan to the men of Wales.

The ManVan travels to communities across the country to support men living with, and affected by, prostate and testicular cancer.

Tenovus Cancer Care can be contacted on 0808 808 1010 (open 8am-8pm, seven days a week).

VALE IS HELPING HAITI HOSPITAL

MORE than 200,000 people lost their lives and over 1,200,000 people were made homeless after the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2010.

The Haiti Hospital Appeal was built out of this catastrophe – a charity that was atarted by two British drama students.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere; the vast majority of people do not have access to adequate healthcare. Many die unnecessarily when basic treatment could have saved them.

To help cope with this tragedy, Haiti Hospital Appeal has built a hospital, which includes a spinal care unit and an all-purpose sports centre.

The Vale in Africa is also a charity that has been set up in Barry to help disadvantaged people living in Africa.

It has built wells for people living in Ugandan villages who previously had to walk two miles to get impure water – the only local source.

These people endure a relentless poverty that few of us can even begin to understand.

This campaign has now decided to split the proceeds from concerts, etc. equally between the Haiti Hospital Appeal and the Vale in Africa.

Jane Hutt, the honorary patron, is to raise the question of twinning the Vale with an area within Haiti or Africa, so perhaps a town or city in Uganda where the Vale in Africa have achieved so much would be suitable.

On April 21 at 7.30pm, the Barry Male Voice Choir hold a concert at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street, Barry, for the charities' main event of the year. Tickets (£5) are available on 01446 749727 or at the door.

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'Healthy living is key in the battle against cancer'

by JAYNE ELDRIDGE

MY baby girl Gracie (15 months) and I are currently 'stepping out' each day and trying to walk as many steps as possible each day throughout March to raise funds for Cancer Research UK to continue their research into why cancer occurs and how we can prevent and treat it.

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading charity dedicated to beating cancer through research.

They are fighting cancer on all fronts, finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat it to save more lives. They are entirely funded by the public.

With the public's help, we can ensure more people beat cancer.

Many people believe that getting cancer is purely down to genes, fate or bad luck. But through scientific research, we know that our risk actually depends on a combination of our genes, our environment and aspects of our lives, many of which we can control.

Gracie with Mum and Dad.

Cancer is caused by damage to our DNA, the chemical instructions that tell our cells what to do. Things in our environment, such as UV rays, or our lifestyle, such as the cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco, can damage our DNA.

This damage builds up over time. If a cell develops too much damage to its DNA it can start to multiply out of control – this is how cancer starts.

In the UK, more than one in two people will develop cancer at some point in their lives. Every year, more than 331,000 people are diagnosed with the disease. But experts estimate that more than 4 in 10 cancer cases could be prevented by lifestyle changes, such as: not smoking; keeping a healthy body weight; cutting back on alcohol; eating a healthy, balanced diet; keeping active; enjoying the sun safely and reducing workplace risks.

Surveys of the population have shown that people aren't necessarily aware that all of these things (and many others) are linked to cancer.

Making lifestyle changes can be difficult, but there are so many benefits. Try to find tricks that make it easier to get into healthy habits, such as being active with a friend, keeping track of what you eat or drink, or letting your friends and family know about what you're doing.

Healthy living is not a cast-iron guarantee against cancer. But it stacks the odds in your favour, by reducing the risk of developing the disease.

Gracie and I have tried to 'step out' every day in March and aim to achieve 2,112 steps as a minimum each day (which equates to one mile). Ideally, we want to walk 31miles throughout March!

To date,we are well on track to achieve this and are currently at 60,600 steps which is approximately 28 miles!

We have a JustGiving Page set up for online donations (you can find us by logging on to JustGiving.com and typing in Gracie Jayne) and we started off with the aim of raising £100 in memory of my grandad (Gracie's great grandad who she never had the opportunity to meet) and in celebration of Gracie's daddy (my husband) who had cancer in his early 20s and was fortunate enough to 'win' the battle and go on to marry me and start a family!

To date, we have reached an amazing £200 which has doubled our original aim!

NFU'S DONATIONS

GLAMORGAN farmers have donated £1,000 to two charities chosen by NFU Cymru County Chairman, Abi Reader. Velindre Cancer Centre and the Farm Community Network have both received £500 donations from the county branch.

Abi Reader, the Glamorgan NFU Cymru county chairman, expressed her sincere appreciation to all who supported the Vale of Glamorgan Show luncheon event which was held last summer prior to the county show.

Michael Locke, fundraiser at Velindre Cancer Centre said: "Velindre Fundraising are so grateful to NFU Cymru for their continuing support. It's this sort of ongoing contribution that enables Velindre Cancer Centre staff to be among the most highly trained in radiotherapy and other specialist anti-cancer treatments in the country."

Peter Riley from the Farm Community Network said: "With so many challenges facing farmers and farming families, the Farming Community Network is receiving an increasing number of calls for support. This generous donation will go towards ensuring that our volunteers throughout Wales are able to visit the farms wherever and whenever they are needed and can work with farmers until their life gets back to normal. Whatever the problem, we are here to help. Just call 03000 111 999 or e-mail chris@fcn.org.uk."

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Orchid day!

DYFFRYN Gardens are the venue for the orchid study group's orchid day this spring.

On May 7 they will be celebrating all things orchid. From displays of many different varieties of orchid to talks on local and exotic species and botanical artists, there will be plenty to satisfy the most avid orchid specialist.

There will also be a demonstration area for visitors to ask questions, and books for sale on gardening, and there will be three speakers on hand: Roy Bailey Wood on native Welsh orchids, 12 – 12.30pm; Sarah from Burnham Nursery on tropical orchids, 2.30pm – 3pm; Chris Flynn on Dyffryn's Orchids, 3.30pm – 4pm.

The event will run between 10am and 6pm with last entry at 5pm; normal admission prices apply to Dyffryn gardens.

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Affordable homes agreement signed

A NEW partnership agreement designed to deliver more affordable homes for the Vale has been signed by the Hafod, Newydd, United Welsh, and Wales and West housing associations, and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The agreement sets out how the organisations will work together to ensure that the process of building new affordable homes in the Vale is as effective as possible.

At the signing of the agreement, Coun Bronwen Brooks, cabinet member for housing, said: "The new partnership agreement cements what is already a very productive working relationship between the council and the four housing associations.

"Together we work hard to develop the new homes that are needed to not only sustain communities across the Vale, but enable them to flourish. The agreement will enable us to work more closely than ever to achieve this."

Diamond ring found in Cowbridge

A diamond ring was handed in to the GEM offices on Monday, April 4.

It was found in Brookfield Park, St Athan Road, Cowbridge.

The GEM has passed the ring on to the Police. For obvious reasons, we are not giving a description.

Anyone who thinks they may be the owner should contact Barry Police Station on 02920 222111

Diabetes event

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group's next meeting is on Tuesday, April 19 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth.

It takes place from 7.30pm – 9pm, when the Cardiff and Vale Health Board public health team will hold a friendly diabetes patient engagement group session.

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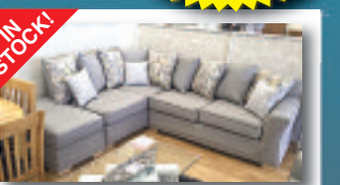

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Eddie the Eagle soars with heart and charm!

EVERYONE loves an underdog. Whether it's the exploits of Leicester City in this season's Premier League, or arguably the success of our national football team, the story of unlikely success and achievement is something gripping and joyous.

It's easy to see why these sorts of stories are so popular in the world of film, and one of Britain's more famous sporting underdogs gets his story told on the big screen in *Eddie The Eagle*.

Eddie Edwards (Taron Egerton) is driven by the desire to be an Olympian, and after several false starts, decides to take up ski jumping to compete in the 1988 Winter Olympics.

However, Eddie's dreams are tested by several knock backs, and teaming up with a jaded former skier Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman) could be his final tilt at achieving his dream...

While certainly an incredible story, you would not have thought that the tale of how 'Eddie The Eagle' became an overnight sensation would be one that would ever make it to the big screen. That it has is one thing – that it manages to be perhaps the most uplifting and charming film you're likely to see this year is another thing entirely!

Much of the reason for this lies in the two central performances from Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman. Egerton, who showed in last year's *Kingsman* that he has the charisma and charm to be the next leading man, brings a humanity and personality to Eddie that makes you instantly root for him.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

As we learn early on he's never had things easy, and it seems that just when he's achieved something there's something else blocking his way, and Egerton's well-judged performance hits the right notes.

He's something of a comedic character but not so comedic that he's a blatant figure of fun, and just when the comedy threatens to envelop proceedings, Egerton reminds you that underneath is a man hoping to achieve his dreams.

Jackman, as the supposedly-washed-up-former-star, has the more cliched (and, in fact, completely made-up) role, yet it's one that the actor, never short of personality, has plenty of fun with. It's an undemanding role, the character arc predictable, yet Jackman delivers a turn that offers a little more substance than you would usually find, and brings a lot of fun while doing it.

The script certainly comes out of the 'films about sporting underdogs' manual, the beats never surprising and the uplifting ending assured, but it does it with a zest that makes it an engaging throughout.

All the tropes are there – nasty rivals, training montages, success from the jaws of failure – but it's how they're presented that elevates the film beyond your average underdog story.

It's directed with notable fizz by Dexter Fletcher, who, three films in, is showcasing himself as very impressive and subtle director. His previous films have been gritty but with a ray of light, and here Fletcher amps up the positivity.

That he sees fit to treat the film without any real cynicism means that its unabashed in its join-the-dots plotting and breezy outlook, with the only dissenting voices on show being treated with a comedic touch.

What's most appealing about *Eddie The Eagle* is the way that it highlights the notion of never giving up on your dream, no matter the situation. Edwards may never have achieved the greatest heights, but the fact that he was on the slope in the first place is a testament to his dogged determination and passion – his is a uniquely British success story that makes one hell of an excellent film!

VERDICT: The most heartwarming and charming film of the year, *Eddie The Eagle* is a paean to never giving and being the best you can be. Dexter Fletcher directs a superb cast, with Taron Egerton and Hugh Jackman great fun to watch, in a film that is amusing and uplifting in equal measure. Edwards may not have hit the heights on the slopes, but on the cinema screen he's a gold medal winner! *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *When Saturday Comes* (1997), *Billy Elliott* (2000).

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Toy and train sale in Cogan

CARDIFF Toy and Train Sale takes place on Saturday, April 9, from 10.30am to 3pm at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff (CF64 2NS) and organiser Chris Dyer said this week: "Our venue in Penarth is ideal for a toy and train sale being large, well-lit, and easily accessed.

"We now offer in excess of 120 tables at the show, and these are operated by more than 50 traders from all over the UK."

For more information, telephone 01643 702757, 07966 694579 or see website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Safer Vale

IF you live in the Vale of Glamorgan and are anxious about anything that is going on in your local area, whether it be crime, disorder or other concerns, Safer Vale are holding a session at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop on Tuesday, April 19 from 10am to 12 noon.

You can chat to a member of the Safer Team about Neighbourhood Watch schemes, cold callers and ways of solving problems; and what to do when a situation arises and who to contact. Call 01446/732385 for further information.

Diabetes event

THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group's next meeting is on Tuesday, April 19, in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth.

It takes place from 7.30pm – 9pm, when the Cardiff and Vale Health Board public health team will hold a friendly diabetes patient engagement group session.

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

Barry Bowling coffee

BARRY Central Bowling Club, Gladstone Gardens, Buttrills Road, Barry is hosting a coffee morning on Saturday, April 9 at 10.30am – 12 noon. Entrance £1.50.

Volunteer fundraisers

THE Cadoxton Youth Project is fundraising for Marie Curie and Ty Hafan at the next toy and train event in Penarth Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 9 from 10.30am – 3pm; youth volunteers will be serving refreshments on the day.

Butterflies celebrates

BUTTERFLIES at 8 High Street, Barry is celebrating its eighth anniversary on Sunday, April 10 from 11am to 4pm with an open invitation to customers.

It will see a new stock launch; discounts; special offers; raffle, and goody bag (spend over £30).

"We are also raising money and awareness for Atal Y Fro, the domestic violence charity. We look forward to celebrating with you all on Sunday," said owner Jodie Tague.

St Brides Major community council

THE next meeting of the St Brides Major community council will be on Monday, April 11 at 7pm at All Saints' Church, Southerndown.

Season's Choice of flowers

THE next meeting of the Barry Floral Society will be at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry on Tuesday, April 12 when the demonstrator will be Mrs Pat Llewelyn of Ammanford.

'Season's Choice' is the title of the afternoon's entertainment. The meeting will begin at 2.15pm and new members are always welcome.

Major Music

MAJOR Music will continue their weekly sessions for the summer term from Tuesday, April 12.

They have two practise rooms (half hour sessions bookable on the night) a recording studio and, new this term, guitar workshops.

There is always helpful advice, tuition or guidance available from the team from Barry YMCA or our volunteers. The Tuesday evening sessions are from 6.30 to 9pm and cost £1 per week.

If you are interested in playing an instrument, would like to play in a relaxed, informal environment with your friends or would like to sing; if you are aged between 11 and 24 – then come along and see what they have to offer.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A meeting will be a talk entitled: 'The Life of Composer Rossini, with piano illustrations', by Rev Clive Williams, at 2pm on Wednesday, April 13 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

AT Awel-y-Mor, on Wednesday, April 13 at 7.30pm there will be a flower demonstration by Kath Lee entitled 'Spring Sunshine'.

Doors open at 6.30pm. A warm welcome to everyone.

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT at Barry Town council offices, Gladstone Road, Barry on Thursday, April 14 at 6.30pm.

Cadoc – Meet your local officer at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry between 11am and 1pm on April 14.

Rhoose coffee and chat will be held at the Six Bells, Penmark on Tuesday, April 19 at 11am.

Fashion show

A FASHION show featuring Bon Marche's spring and summer collection will be at Golau Caredig extra care facility, Barry (the old cinema site) on April 14 to raise vital funds for British Heart Foundation (BHF).

It is also hoped to have a range of menswear, which is a new line for Bon Marche. Event organisers, the Barry BHF fundraising group are inviting everyone to support the fashion show from 10.30am. All money raised will support the charity in its fight against heart and coronary disease.

Osteoporosis Support

ON Thursday, April 14 the Cardiff and District Osteoporosis Support Group is holding a meeting at The Lesser Hall, Cowbridge CF71 7AD from 7pm to 9pm.

Dr Jane Turton, of the Bone Research Unit, Llandough Hospital will give a presentation on osteoporosis.

One in two women and one in five men over the age of 50 are expected to break a bone as a result of osteoporosis. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment can help us to keep our bones healthy. All are welcome, men as well as women; those diagnosed with osteoporosis and those who are just interested. Entry £1, includes refreshments.

For more information: 07802 953967 or visit www.nos.org.uk/cardiff-and-district.

Choirs of Barry

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, invites music lovers to attend the Choirs of Barry concert, to be held on Friday, April 15 at St Helen's RC Church, Wyndham Street, Barry at 7pm.

The concert will feature Barry Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies' Choir and Barry Community Choir. Tickets, £6 are available from the offices at Barry Town Council, 7 Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA.

All proceeds are in aid of Tŷ Hapus and MNDA Cardiff & Vale, nominated charities of the Mayor of Barry.

For more information, contact 01446 704921 or e-mail juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Free day at Dyffryn

ON April 15, Dyffryn Gardens is throwing open its doors to visitors for free as part of National Gardening Week, and to get families outdoors and celebrating spring.

Visitors can explore the gardens and arboretum, and visit the exotics in Dyffryn's enormous glasshouse; ponds, secret garden rooms and two walled gardens will all be open on the day.

Medium evening

AN evening with medium Helena Stenner and friends in aid of KPC Youth & Community will be held at Kenfig Hill Labour Club on Saturday, April 16 at 7.30 pm.

Tickets on sale now from KPC, £6 in advance: 01656 749219/745399 or email kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Fishing litter injures swan at Dyffryn Gardens

The injured swan.

A SWAN has been returned to the wild after he was injured with fishing litter.

The swan was spotted at Dyffryn in the Vale of Glamorgan with a leg injury and was reported to the RSPCA.

RSPCA chief inspector Elaine Spence said: "This swan had a nasty injury on his right leg. The fishing line had gone around four or five times around his leg and it had dug straight in. The wound was also healing over the fishing line.

"At the vets, a fishing hook was also found in his leg. The vet was able to remove the hook and to pull out the line out of the wound.

"The wound had healed cleanly and he did not require any medication."

The swan was then released back to where he was found.

"As soon as he was released he called to his mate and she came running over."

Unfortunately, swans are commonly admitted to our wildlife centres as a result of being entangled in, swallowing, or being injured by, fishing litter.

Line can wrap around necks causing deep wounds in flesh and cutting off the blood supply, hooks can pierce beaks, become embedded in skin or get caught in the bird's throat, and weights can be swallowed causing internal injuries and blockages.

RSPCA tips to help tackle the problem include: Taking unwanted fishing line home and cut it into pieces before putting in the bin; Being aware of surrounding trees – discarded line caught in foliage can entangle wildlife; Don't leave bait unattended – always remove from the hook and put it in a safe place;

Use a bait box – this will reduce the chances of leaving behind an empty bait tin by mistake; Don't leave hooks, weights or other paraphernalia behind.

If you spot an animal in distress, call the RSPCA's 24-hour helpline on 0300 1234 999. They have a page on our website dedicated to fishing litter; http://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter/fishing.

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Sunday, April 10 at 2.30pm, Lavernock Nature Reserve, starting at the Captain's Wife car park, Sully (ST168674); fee payable.

On Tuesday, April 12 at 1.30pm, Somerset Views, starting at Rhoose railway station car park.

Also on April 12 at 2.3opm, the coffee shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park.

On Wednesday, April 13 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston Country Park Visitor Centre.

Liver cancer drug sorafenib available on Welsh NHS

THE only medicine licensed to treat the most common form of liver cancer will be available on the Welsh NHS, Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford confirmed on Tuesday (April 5).

He stated that the positive recommendation by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) that sorafenib should be made routinely available to treat people with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) for whom there are no other treatment options, will be endorsed.

The manufacturer of sorafenib has agreed to a Wales Patient Access Scheme, which lowers the cost of treatment. This means sorafenib can made available despite a previous decision by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) not to recommend its use in the NHS in Wales and England.

HCC is the most common form of primary liver cancer and occurs predominantly in people with chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. It is the third leading cause of cancer death worldwide.

Study locally... and improve your prospects

Getting a university qualification could take your career to the next level, and with courses available at local colleges you don't have to go far to get further. Studying closer to home could reduce the cost of travel plus there are grants, loans and allowances available for eligible Welsh students. Investing in your future could add up to less than you think so order your course guide or visit our website to find out what's on offer near you.

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Vale Photo Club members celebrate salon success

'Not me, ref' by Mike Davies.

The common blue damselfly by Mark Lunn.

EVERY year, the Welsh Photographic Federation (WPF) invite clubs affiliated to both the Welsh Photographic Federation and the North Wales Photographic Association to submit images for selection in the annual 'Welsh Salon of Photography'.

Vale Photographic Club members Terry Verrinder, Mark Lunn, Nick Thornton, Mike Davies and Nick Craddock, between them had 10 printed and six digital images accepted into the 2016 Welsh Salon! Well done all.

Mike Davies achieved the award for 'Best Sport Digital Image' with his picture 'Not me Ref!' and Terry Verrinder was awarded 'Best People Print' for his picture representing 'The Anguish of Deianeira'.

The overall winner was Mike Davies' 'Not me, ref'. The picture shows the pleas of 'innocence' from a rugby player penalised by the ref.

This month also saw a talk entitled 'Soviet ghosts – Chernobyl and Pripyat', by photographer Tim Knifton. Tim visited the site of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl and his photographs showing us how nature was reclaiming the town, its playgrounds, and even a Ferris wheel were sobering indeed. Great stuff.

If you'd like to know more about the club, whether you're looking to develop your skills as a serious photographer, just starting out with a new camera, or simply looking to take better photographs of the kids, you'll be most welcome at the Vale Photographic Club (*www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk/*).

ANDREW COLEMAN

'Cardiff Airport vital to economy'

CARDIFF Airport reported this week that passenger figures continue to grow, with the March total up by 29 per cent versus the same month last year.

This 10th consecutive month of growth brings the rolling 12-year passenger figure up to 1.228 million (up 22 per cent).

"Customers are taking advantage of an increased choice of destinations, more availability and better timings on key routes, plus airlines are offering greater value for money to fly from Cardiff," a spokesperson said.

Flybe has stepped in to offer 'rescue flights' to London City starting on September 12, ensuring Welsh passengers still have access to the city while works are underway on the Severn Tunnel; and has also announced a new route to Berlin starting on November 2.

Low-cost Spanish airline Vueling has increased its summer programme of flights from Cardiff by some 40 per cent, and Ryanair has doubled its capacity at the airport on winter flights to Tenerife, with a second weekly flight departing on Thursdays along with the existing Monday route.

Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Coun Ian Johnson, has said that a recent Assembly report on Cardiff Airport shows its importance for both the Vale and for Wales.

He said: "Cardiff Airport is an important local employer and it would have been disastrous for the Vale and Wales if it were to have been left in private hands and run down to nothing.

"Between 1,750 and 2,000 jobs in south Wales, many in Barry, Rhoose and the Vale itself depend upon the airport in one way or another.

"The increase in routes serving Cardiff Airport is key to its' future economic success, and that will also be helped by improved access to the M4 once Five Mile Lane is improved.

"Those who complain about buying the Airport need to consider what would happen if it was closed down due to lack of investment by the private sector," he added.

Historic Mills of Wales

THE last meeting of the Dinas Powys Local History Society will be held on Tuesday, April 12 in Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk on The Historical Mills of Wales by Mr Geralt Nash commencing at 7.30 pm.

Free admission, all welcome. Enquiries on 029 20513524.

'Campaign against council tax rises!'

REGARDING the rise in council tax, I find the quote from Coun Neil Moore: "It will cost people £1 a week extra" quite a sneering remark.

Now, it is not 'can I afford to heat and eat', it is 'can I afford tax/rent rises or eat'.

The people cannot give what they have not got, Mr Moore. What would you do in the same situation?

It was difficult to find the money last year. There are fewer services from the council, yet they want more and more money.

Let's start the campaign against future rises.

P Hill,
Barry.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Samantha B
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10% off with this advert
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Spring clean your wardrobe...

AS we emerge from the gloomy winter it is great to turn our attention to spring and pay a visit to Samantha B at Ewenny!

If, like me, you put your winter things away and organise your spring and summer wardrobe, it gives a good opportunity to see what needs replacing and enhancing.

Give a new lease of life to a much-loved pair of trousers by adding a new jacket or top, there's so much to choose from this season – gorgeous colours and shapes, something for everyone.

We are not out of the woods as far as the weather is concerned and we can always rely on a summer shower. We have some lovely shower-proof coats in gorgeous colours: pink, lime and this season's must-have, orange.

There are no rules this season, and so much choice – but one thing we all like is great fitting trousers. We have lovely labels such as Olsen and Marble that are a perfect fit, the hardest thing will be which colour and style to choose! Crop, patterned, pull-on, boot cut or more traditional, the choice is yours!

We are proud to be the only supplier of Olsen and Bianca in the area, other labels include Poppy, Emreco, Adini, Pomodoro, Signature and Brandtex.

If you are looking for something different call in and see what we have to offer and receive 10 per cent off.

You've worked hard for what you have... We help you keep it

WE all know that you need a Will to make sure your home and other assets go to the ones you love when you're gone; but a Will is only one part of the story.

You may be shocked to learn that there are many ways your wealth can be eroded during your lifetime, which means there may be substantially less for your family to inherit when you've gone.

Illness, provision for long-term care, probate costs and other challenges can all have a serious impact on your wealth.

We provide you with a proven legal framework to make sure you keep the wealth you've worked hard for.

Lindsay Jenkins, a qualified consultant with the Will Associates, can visit you at your home anytime, including evening and weekends.

He can discuss the various options available including Wills, trusts, lasting powers of attorney and funeral plans, to enable you to make an informed decision to protect your wealth and loved ones' inheritance.

Contact Lindsay on 0800 847 7014 or 07713 558568.

Humanist Association's alternative services

STEVE PARRY and Ann Joice are British Humanist Association celebrants from Barry, who conduct non-religious funerals and memorial services in the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county.

Almost half the population say they are not religious, yet many are unaware that there are alternative non-religious ceremonies from the BHA. These ceremonies can replace religious services to mark major events in life.

Steve is intending to offer naming and wedding ceremonies in the future, and Ann will shortly complete training for naming ceremonies.

When asked to lead a funeral, they visit the family of the deceased, to talk about what form of ceremony the family want, then write a personal and unique ceremony that focuses on the life of the person who has died.

You do not have to be a humanist for these ceremonies, and they can take whatever form best represents the life of a loved one.

Personal, Unique and Memorial Ceremonies
HUMANIST Ceremonies
www.humanist.org.uk
Steve Parry 01446 349017 steveparry@humanistceremonies.org.uk
Ann Joice 01446 728255 annjoice@humanistceremonies.org.uk
British Humanist Association. Trained and Accredited Celebrants. Serving the Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan areas.

Your family are not guaranteed to inherit your wealth
For free information and advice please call:
0800 847 7014

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

With Music in Mind

WITH Music In Mind's Cowbridge group which started in September 2015, offers group singing and social networking sessions, and has been shown to increase confidence, reduce stress and improve well-being.

The group runs every Friday morning at 10.30am-12.30pm at the Duke of Wellington. WMIM are hoping to set up a group in Barry in the near future.

On April 16, WMIM are hosting 'Sing Along Sound of Music', and their first concert will be on September 17, at 7pm at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

For more information, contact Sarah or Kate on 07500 776295 or at info@withmusicinmind.co.uk.

Saturday 16th April 7.30pm
Doors open 7.15pm
Cowbridge Town Hall • Tickets £5
Buy in advance from:
The Pencil Case, Cowbridge
or email: info@withmusicinmind.co.uk
or text or call: 07500 776295.

The Fire & Stove Shop has huge a choice on display

THE Fire & Stove Shop at The Pumping Station has now been open for just over 18 months and in that short time has installed over 180 stoves and fireplaces – including one for the BBC 'DIY SOS The Big Build', in Swansea.

The business is run by husband and wife team, Terry and Helen, with Terry having over 20 years' experience in the fireplace industry.

A spokesman explained: "Situated within the Pumping Station on Penarth Road, Cardiff, we are able to supply all types of stoves along with a huge choice of marble and stone surrounds.

"We can also supply and fit original and reproduction cast iron fireplaces.

"We offer a free, no obligation survey, to help you choose the right product to suit your needs.

"With over 50 stoves and fireplaces on display, within four separate showrooms, including seven live stove displays, we are confident that we have something to meet your budget and taste.

"We can carry out any type of installation or modification to your stove, fireplace or chimney, using our own fully-qualified installation team, Damian and Tom – with Damian being both HETAS and NACS registered.

"As well as having a huge range of displays, we also have a large number of accessories in stock, including baskets, beams, fireguards, companion sets, outdoor fire-pit grills and the 'Tubby Jack' range of ceramic barbecue grill and smokers."

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MODERN DECORATIONS – OFFERING A FULL SERVICE

GEOFF Brown has run Modern Decorations for over 30 years, and in that time he has created most of his business from satisfied customer recommendations.

Geoff will visit you at your home or office and show you the wide range of fabrics he has to offer – you can match the current colours in your room to your new blinds and curtains, which saves you time searching for a particular colour or pattern.

If you require tracks or poles for your curtains, there is a good range to match the materials chosen.

Geoff offers a full measuring, make up, and fitting service, free estimates are often given on site and come without any obligation.

Offering a personal service, Geoff will make sure your curtains and blinds complement the current interior décor of your home or office.

With a range of fabrics to choose from, what are you waiting for? Call him today on 01446 739174.

Modern Decorations
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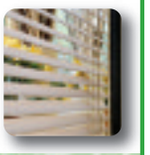
Your Curtain & Blind specialist

View a wide range of fabrics in the comfort of your home or office.



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HIGH LEVEL ACTION AT TREE TOP CHALLENGE

NEWLY opened at the popular Amelia Trust Farm in the heart of the Vale, Tree Top Challenge offers a unique climbing and aerial activity experience, for various ages and abilities.

Situated among the established woodland of the farm's estate, the setting is perfect for some high level action in the tree tops!

With high rope ladder climbs, 7m high log andslack-line traverses, abseiling, slack-lining, arm bursting rope climbs, 12m high 'Fries', tree climbing, 12m high zip-line and vertical climbing challenges to overcome, Tree Top Challenge has more than enough to test even the most hardened adventurers.

The centre also provides training for tree surgeons and rope access technicians, with courses and workshops ranging from four hours to four weeks.

Regular tree climbing and slack-lining competitions will also be running throughout the summer.

For information and updates, please visit the website: www.treetopchallenge.co.uk.

Exciting climbing activities up to 12 metres high!!!

• Tree climbing • High slack-line traverse
• High log bridge • Abseiling • Zip line
• Rope climbing • 12M FRIES
• Speed climbing • Slack lining & more!
• Tree climbing & Slack-lining competitions
• Tree surgery & Rope access training

Ask about our party packages!
Height & weight restrictions apply. For more information visit our website...
Tel: 0800 644 4440 • www.treetopchallenge.co.uk
Located at Five Mile Lane, CF62 3AS.

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

MYND AM DRO I'R FRO GYDA DAI LINGUAL…

i Dresimwn[t]!

Efallai taw rhan annatod o fod yn 'lleol' yw adnabod y tafarndai gorau am ginio dydd Sul.

Yn ein teulu ni, y Blac yn Nhalybont oedd y lle i fynd tra'n byw a bod yng nghyffiniau'r pentref hwnnw yng Ngheredigion. Erbyn hyn, mae pob un ohonom o'r teulu niwclear [ym mhob ystyr y gair meddai rhai!] yn byw yn y De-Ddwyrain ac felly mae'r Fro yn ardal hyfryd i ymlacio – a gwledda – ynddi ar y Sul, a phryd bynnag arall daw'r dathliadau blynyddol. Eisoes rydw i wedi sôn am y Sili felly does dim lle yma i droedio draw i'r Captain's Wife eto, rheswm digonol felly i ganolbwyntio ar gartref y Llew Coch yn Nhresimwn, neu Bonvilston i rai.

Eto yn rhinwedd y golofn hon, gallaf anwybyddu'n llwyr pam bod y Saeson yn dueddol o enwi llefydd ac wedyn hepgor hanner y cytseiniaid fel eu bod nhw'n haws i ddweud – nid yn y Gymraeg yn unig ceir treiglo felly! Yn ôl Gwynedd Owen Pierce fel Boleston roedd Bonvilston yn cael ei ysgrifennu hyd yn oed yn ystod y 16eg ganrif, ac yn wir mae Cysill yn adnabod yr enw fel Bolystyn! Ac mae'n debyg, eto o ddarllen gwaith Gwynedd O. ac nid o reidrwydd wrth glywed yr enw, Coston oedd un ffordd o sillafu Cosmeston yn y 13eg ganrif! [Neu 'Coson' yn ôl Cysill?]

Fodd bynnag, astudiais Place names of Dinas Powys Gwynedd Owen Pierce a argraffwyd yn gyntaf gan Wasg Prifysgol Cymru yn 1968 er mwyn sicrhau hanes Tresimwn – i ddarganfod pwy oedd Simwn felly. Un ateb posib yw mai perchennog y tŷ crand Boulston Bonvill yn y 13eg ganrif oedd dyn o'r enw Simon de Bonavilla (does dim angen erthygl ar darddiad ei gyfenw ef!), a'i gyfenw yn arddangos y cysylltiad cryf sydd rhwng y Fro a Ffrainc – cysylltiad sydd am ddod i'r amlwg eto'r haf yma wrth i nifer fawr o ddinasyddion y Fro teithio draw i Ffrainc i geisio gwylio gêm o "Baledroed" wrth gwrs!

Dadleua Gwynedd O. Pierce mai tarddiad ar wahân sydd gan Tresimwnt (er yr un man, am wn i), gan fod yna fardd o'r enw Simwnt yn byw yn yr ardal yn y 16eg ganrif, sef Simwnt Fychan [cyfenw a drodd i fod yn Vaughan - megis David Vaughan, chwaraewr canol cae Cymru – yn ystod y pedair canrif ddiwethaf].

Os oes yna bwrpas ehangach i'r golofn fisol hon na diddanu a llenwi ambell i gap yn y Gem, yna hyrwyddo'r enwau Cymraeg eu hanfod yw hynny; ac os rhywbeth dwi'm yn credu bod angen dweud mwy na geiriau olaf Pierce ar y mater yma i'ch ysbrydoli i wneud hynny eich hunan gyda'ch teulu, a'ch plant chi: am ryw reswm dydi Pierce methu enwi'r iaith Gymraeg yr ail dro hyd yn oed...sic:

"Tresimwn is used now only by Welsh speakers who have knowledge of what the W form should be, and as a 'literary' form." Ewch ati felly! Ac yn hytrach na gadael i Gwynedd Owen Pierce gael y gair olaf, edrychwn draw dros y don eto i wlad sydd – nid anhebyg i ni – yn aml iawn yn ymladd yn fewnol ynglŷn â sut i hyrwyddo eu iaith hanesyddol nhw yn bur effeithiol, gan gynnwys cael gwared ar y to bach yn yn oed! [Ble nad oes to bach ar y to ond mae yna do bach ar y tŷ!] ... Fe newn ni eich gweld chi yn Ffrainc, gobiethio! À bientôt.

Pe baech am wybod mwy am enwau lleol, cofiwch ymweld â'r llyfrgell leol er mwyn cefnogi ein gwasanaethau cyhoeddus sy'n cynnal ein diwylliant unigryw. Er mwyn awgrymu enw(au) llefydd – sydd yn prysur ddirwyn i ben! – cysylltwch : david.wyn@dailingual.cymru 16 Lewis Rd, Llandochau Fach, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg.

Beth yw'r ots gennyf i am ffwtbol?

Na, doeddwn i ddim wedi bwriadu ysgrifennu fy erthygl gyntaf am bêl-droed. Pam? Wel, yn syml iawn - dwi ddim yn foi ffwtbol!

Na'i wylio gêm derfynol cwpan FA os does 'na ddim byd gwell ymlaen ar y teledu ac ambell i gêm Cwpan y Byd, dim ond i gadw fy mrawd yn hapus. Mae'n nhw'n dweud mai'r unig ddynion sy'n casáu pêl droed, yw'r rhai nad oeddent yn cael eu dewis ar gyfer y tîm yn yr ysgol. Wel, er bod hynny'n ffactor gan fod gen i ddwy droed chwith, dydw i ddim yn hoffi pêl droed oherwydd bod rygbi yn well gêm... a dyna hanner y darllenwyr wedi symud ymlaen at yr erthygl nesaf!

Serch fy rhagfarn di-gyfaddawd, llwyddodd cyd-deithiwr ar drên o Gaerdydd i Borthmadog, i'm argyhoeddi ei fod yn hen bryd i'r Cymry ddiosg eu crysau rygbi Under Armour. Ac yn wir, erbyn i mi gyrraedd pen fy nhaith, roeddwn yn barod i ymuno â chriw Bale, a hynny mewn crys goch Adidas. Roedd fy nghyfaill, brodor o Fanceinion, yn teithio adref ar ôl gwylio Cymru yn herio Gogledd Iwerddon. Roedd yn llawn cyffro wrth iddo egluro gymaint yr oedd yn edrych ymlaen at ddilyn Cymru yn yr Euros. Fe gul-wenodd yn ogystal pan wthiodd betting slip i'm llaw ac egluro ei fod wedi rhoi arian ar Gymru i ennill y bencampwriaeth eleni. Ie, Sais yn rhoi arian ar Gymru i ennill.

Y rheswm pam fy mod yn teithio i Borthmadog oedd i ddyfarnu gem rygbi rhwng Port a 'r Rhyl. Mae fy ngwreiddiau'n ddwfn ym myd rygbi, fel cefnogwr, cyn-chwaraewr a bellach fel dyfarnwr. Yn fy marn i, does yr un anthem genedlaethol yn dod yn agos at 'Mae Hen Wlad fy Nhadau' ar brynhawn oer yn y stadiwm. Ond, wrth i mi wrando ar fy nghyfaill newydd, meddyliais efallai fod yr anthem yr un mor bwysig i garfan Coleman hefyd. Nid rhywbeth unigryw i gefnogwyr rygbi yw'r wefr o gyd-ganu'r anthem gyda degau o filoedd o gefnogwyr brwd. Wrth i'r siwrne a'r sgwrs barhau, cododd fymryn o gywilydd arnaf wrth i mi sylweddoli bod rhywun a oedd yn hanu o ochr arall i Glawdd Offa yn dangos llawer mwy o gariad a theyrngarwch na fi, tuag at ein tîm pêl-droed cenedlaethol.

"Mae pêl-droed yng Nghymru wedi tyfu'n fwy poblogaidd yn ddiweddar ers i ni ennill ein lle yn y bencampwriaeth yn Ffrainc" ymffrostiais, wrth i ni agosáu at orsaf Amwythig. A dyna fi'n sylweddoli fy mod wedi defnyddio 'ni' am y tro cyntaf. Digwyddiad hanesyddol - Cymru'n chwarae mewn pencampwriaeth o'r fath am y tro cyntaf mewn dros hanner canrif, a minnau, cefnogwr rygbi, yn hawlio perchnogaeth dros fechgyn Coleman am y tro cyntaf erioed.

Felly, cyd-gefnogwyr rygbi, os gall fy nghyfaill newydd o Fanceinion gefnogi 'Byddin Bale' yr haf yma, siawns y gallwn ninnau ddangos yr un gefnogaeth ..… wel, o leiaf tan fydd gemau rygbi Cymru'n ail-ddechrau yn yr Hydref.

Bon chance i Gymru, a chofiwch bod yna 5 munud ychwanegol i bob hanner!

JACOB DAFYDD ELLIS

SÊR EIRY

Blwyddyn Newydd Dda! Ar Fawrth 21 bydd yr Haul yn symud i arwydd Aries – a dechrau blwyddyn newydd astrolegol i ni i gyd.

ARIES: Daeth y Gwanwyn a dechrau blwyddyn astrolegol newydd – a chyfnod mwyaf lwcus y flwyddyn i Aries. Gwnewch fawr ohono yn enwedig ym mis Ebrill bydd Gwener, planed serch a lwc yn symud i arwydd Aries hefyd. Peidiwch â bod yn rhy fyrbwyll, gan fod damweiniau'n bosib.

TAURUS: Nid dyma'r amser gorau yn y flwyddyn i Taurus, ond ymhen mis mi fydd y planedau'n paratoi ar gyfer blwyddyn newydd sbon i chithe hefyd. Rhaid bod yn amyneddgar – ac aros am ddyddiau gwell. Cadwch eich traed a'ch gwddwg yn gynnes ac ewch i'r gwely'n gynnar.

GEMINI: Mae bywyd yn mynd i fod yn dipyn o boen am dipyn. Mae'n bosib y bydd rhywun yn eich twyllo a falle bydd rhywbeth pwysig yn mynd ar goll, neu falle bydd rhywun yn anghofio rhoi neges bwysig i chi. Rhaid cadw'r dymer 'na dan reolaeth! Erbyn canol Ebrill mi ddaw pethau'n llawer gwell.

CANCER: Mae'r amser wedi llusgo'n ddiddiwedd i Cancer y gaeaf 'ma, chi, blentyn yr haul, a rydych chi'n eitha piwis ag anodd i fyw gyda chi ar hyn o bryd. Mae angen gwneud rhywbeth am y peth cyn ffraeo gyda phawb!. Daliwch eich tafod a gwenwch; neu cadwch draw am y tro.

LEO: Mae safle'r Haul yn Aries, arwydd tân fel chithe yn sicr o godi calon Leo a dod a lwc hefyd. Mwynhewch y gwanwyn, gan mai dyma'r amser gorau i gael mwy o arian yn eich poced. Mae teithio ar y cardiau - Ond mae damweiniau'n bosib hefyd felly cymrwch ofal mawr.

VIRGO: Mi fydd Ebrill 2016 yn fis lwcus i Virgo'n ariannol. Mae rhywun am roi rhodd eitha hael i chi, neu falle y cewch chi godiad yn eich cyflog. Mae'n bosib y byddwch yn clywed newyddion oddi wrth rhywun o wlad dramor cyn diwedd y mis fydd yn codi'ch calon.

LIBRA: Mae Libra'n debygol o ymddwyn yn gwbl groes i'w natur addfwyn ar hyn o bryd. Fel rheol rydych chi'n pwyso a mesur yn ofalus cyn mentro agor eich ceg , ond mae rhywun yn mynd i'ch cythruddo gymaint fel y byddwch yn ymateb fel rhywbeth cynddeiriog a synnu pawb!

SCORPIO: Gyda thipyn o lwc mi fydd Scorpio yn cael cyfle i deithio cyn bo hir. Mae gwyliau ar y gorwel. Rydych chi wedi cael tipyn o anlwc yn ddiweddar, pethau ddim yn gweithio allan fel y dylen nhw. Ond mae'ch lwc ar fin troi - ac mae rhywun - agos - yn mynd i roi anrheg hyfryd i chi.

SAGITTARIUS: Mae Sagittarius yn debygol o wario arian fel dwr y mis hwn - fel tase papurau degpunt yn tyfu ar goed. Ac mi fydd rhai pobl yn cymryd mantais o'ch natur hael - felly dyma rybudd! Mae'n bosib y bydd rhywun mewn awdurdod yn dweud y drefn wrtho chi cyn diwedd y mis.

CAPRICORN: Mae Capricorn wedi bod yn eitha diflas trwy fisoedd y gaeaf. Mae'n hen bryd felly i chi roi ysgytwad go iawn i''ch hunan nawr mae'r Gwanwyn wedi dod. Mi fyddai'n syniad mynd allan a gwario'r holl arian 'na rydych chi wedi 'i gadw ar gyfer diwrnod glawog – a'i fwynhau.

AQUARIUS: Mae pethau'n edrych yn dda iawn i Aquarius ar hyn o bryd, yn enwedig yn ariannol, ond rhaid gofalu rhag gwario'n rhy wyllt gan fod cyfnod anodd ar ei ffordd eto. Rydych chi'n dueddol o ennill pwysau ar hyn o bryd . Amser i fynd i'r 'gym' a gwrthod y chips falle?

PISCES: Mae bywyd yn garedig iawn i Pisces ar hyn o bryd, a rydych chithe'n teimlo'n garedig tuag at eich ffrindiau hefyd. Peidiwch â mynd dros ben llestri gan y gall rhai gymryd mantais o'ch natur garedig. Mae rhywun agos yn debygol o fynd i'r ysbyty ac mi fyddwch chi'n gefn mawr iddyn nhw.

Pob lwc i chi'i gyd – a mwynhewch!

CYMRY CYMRAEG NEWYDD

Bob blwyddyn, mae Cymrodorion y Barri yn cynnal 'Noson y Dysgwyr'. Eleni, mae pedwar siaradwr ail iaith wedi awgrymu term amgen, a herio'r gynulleidfa i ymuno â gweithgareddau sy'n rhoi hwb i'r iaith. Dyma lais un o'r Cymry Cymraeg Newydd, Gareth Thomas.

Cymaint o eiriau da - a finnau y tu fas iddynt!.

Crwt bach o'r Rhondda oeddwn i, wedi cael fy magu yn ddi-Gymraeg er mwyn gwella fy nghyfleoedd yn y byd 'go iawn' ac wedi fy alltudio dros y ffin er mwyn cael gwaith a gyrfa oedd yn talu'n dda. Cyrhaeddais fy hanner cant cyn dechrau sylweddoli bod rhywbeth personol a phwysig ar goll.

Roeddwn i'n arfer dod nôl i Gymru ar benwythnosau i ymweld â fy nhad oedd ar ei ben ei hun erbyn hynny ac yn byw mewn tŷ rhy fawr iddo ym Mhenarth. Yn fy machgendod roeddem wedi arfer ymweld â Pharc yr Arfau i wylio Caerdydd yn chwarae ond erbyn y nawdegau gwylio'r Gleision ar S4C a fyddem. Teimlwn mor rhwystredig wrth wrando ar Huw Llywelyn Davies yn sylwebu yn ei Gymraeg swynol a finnau 'mond yn deall ambell air: fel 'cais' neu 'pyst'. Ond roedd sŵn a swyn y geiriau yn plymio i ddyfnderoedd fy nghof ac yn chyffwrdd â fy nghalon.

Dw i'n cofio Huw LL-D yn sôn am chwaraewr yn syrthio'n 'bendramwnwgl!' AM air! AM sŵn! Pendramwnwgl! Wedi esboniad gan fy nhad gyrrais nôl ar hyd yr M4 yn ail-adrodd y gair fel swyngan, fel gair oedd yn medru datgloi rhan bwysig o fy hunaniaeth. Wedi cyrraedd Hampshire roeddwn i wedi penderfynu dysgu Cymraeg, i ailgydio yn fy ngwreiddiau.

Wrth gwrs, yn Hampshire roeddwn i'n wastad wedi pwysleisio fy Nghymreictod: gwisgo crysau rygbi Cymru ar benwythnosau, dangos posteri o Scott Gibbs yn sgorio yn erbyn Lloegr ym 1999 (roeddwn i yno) a gwario ffortiwn ar fy nghasgliad o Groggs a CD's Catrin Finch/Katherine Jenkins/Bryn Terfel, ond roedd Huw Ll-D wedi dangos ffordd lawer gwell.

Mae geiriau wastad wedi bod yn bwysig i fi yn bersonol a phroffesiynol. Defnyddiais eiriau fel arfau yn fy ngwaith. Ond nawr roedd geiriau yn golygu, hyn yn oed, fwy. Ail-ddarllenais eiriau R S Thomas am ei deimladau e o fod yn Gymro di-Gymraeg.

'Can't speak my own language- Iesu! All those good words and I outside them.'

Does dim ffordd well i fynegi'r teimlad o dlodi diwylliannol. Dyma ble oeddwn i – y tu fas i'r holl etifeddiaeth oedd yn sylfaen fy hunaniaeth. Wedi cyrraedd hanner cant rhois derfyn ar boeni am fy ngyrfa a rhois flaenoriaeth i ystyriaethau mwy personol. Dechreuais ddysgu Cymraeg o bell drwy gwrs gohebol Prifysgol Morgannwg gyda'r annwyl Margaret Roberts fel tiwtor.

Sefydlwyd 'Cymrodoriaeth Cymraeg Basingstoke', sef ugain neu fwy o Gymry alltud oedd yn cwrdd i ddysgu

Cymraeg o'r dechrau trwy ddefnyddio cyrsiau CBAC. Ar un pryd 'doedd ond tair chanolfan arholiadau Cymraeg i Oedolion y tu hwnt i Gymru, sef Llundain, Hong Kong a Basingstoke! Buom yn cystadlu fel grŵp yn Eisteddfod Glyn Ebwy heb ennill dim - ond, yn wir, wedi ennill y wobr bwysicaf oll.

Y gallu i flasu'r geiriau Gymraeg yn ein cegau.

Gareth Thomas

TEITHIAU CERDDED CYMRAEG gyda Valeways

Ydych chi'n joio cerdded ac yn dysgu Cymraeg neu yn rhugl ac yn chwilio am gyfle i sgwrsio a chymdeithasu? Dyma'r teithiau i chi!

Dydd Mawrth 5 Ebrill 'Crwydro' (Taith Iach) - Cwrdd 10.00yb Gorsaf Rheilffordd Ynys Y Barri CF62 5TH

Dydd Sul 17 Ebrill 'Hen Eglwysi' (Taith Estynedig) - Cwrdd 2.00yp Llyfrgell y Bontfaen CF71 7AH

Dydd Mawrth 21 Ebrill 'Crwydro' (Taith Iach) - Cwrdd 10.00yb Gorsaf Rheilffordd Penarth CF64 3DQ

Dydd Mawrth 26 Ebrill 'Crwydro' (Taith Iach) - Cwrdd 10.00yb Llyfrgell Y Bontfaen CF71 7AH

Dewch am dro a hybu'r Gymraeg yn y Fro. Croeso cynnes i bawb!

Am fwy o wybodaeth ewch www.valeways.org.uk neu cysylltwch â Ruth 07800969157

Twitter: @MIBroMorgannwg • Facebook: Menter Bro Morgannwg
Ebost: ffion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru • Ffôn: (029) 20689888 • www.menterbromorgannwg.cymru

Keep pedalling, Father!

Lyndsay Ellis presents the cheque to Father Ben Andrews, above.

AS part of their continued support to their community, Barry husband and wife funeral directors Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis were more than happy to support local vicar Ben Andrews, by donating the £1,000 target towards his bike ride from Chester to Barry.

The ride is to raise much-needed funds for work on his Barry parishes St Mary's and St Cadoc's, the old village church in Cadoxton.

"We wish Father Ben a safe and enjoyable ride with his colleagues within the Church in Wales. We are pleased to take an active part in supporting our community," Lyndsay said.

Unravelling the Moon's mysteries

THE speaker at last week's Barry Men's Forum meeting was Mike Cheeseman, who introduced his talk on 'Moon Mysteries', with a reminder of his previous talk to the Forum on 'The Moon Landing Conspiracies'.

He repeated that at least 40 per cent of the citizens of the United States believe that the first and possibly the second moon landings were an elaborate hoax planned by NASA and President Nixon. This new talk was a follow-on from that talk.

There were many other mysteries that NASA had failed to explain. After spending billions in a race to the moon (and both USA and Russia planned to set up space stations on the moon) why haven't they returned to the moon after 40 years?

Why did NASA detonate an atomic bomb on the south pole of the moon? What causes the many strange lights on the moon? Is the moon hollow? Why does the moon have an unnatural orbit? What happened to a million high definition photos from the NASA moon surveys?

Why have ruins on the moon not been investigated, and who built them?

Huge numbers of unidentified flying objects are reported each year. Where do these UFOs come from?

In September 2011, the US Science Department issued a statement on behalf of NASA and the US Government, that there was no evidence of any extra-terrestrial beings in our solar system; nor had there been any contact with such beings.

Mike showed dozens of photos of ruined roads and buildings on the moon. He also showed photos of what appear to be a bridge, a tower, a castle, several huge domes, a couple of UFOs and hundreds of strange lights.

NASA recognises these strange lights and accepts them, so much so that they gave them a name; they are called transient lunar phenomena. NASA offers no explanation for the cause of these lights.

The Forum next meets on Thursday, April 14, when Peter Colman will be speaking on the topic of The Tall Ships, at Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Aberystwyth Crescent, at 10.15am. New members are welcome.

PMW

Trekking to Sgwd yr Eira and Taff Fechan forest

PATHWAYS are at last beginning to dry out, as 10 Penarth and District Ramblers who joined Clive recently for an enjoyable trek from Penderyn (renowned as being the home of Welsh whisky), found out.

In overcast conditions, they set off across fields making their way to Penderyn Reservoir and a footbridge led to Tai-cwplau, where a farm track with some handy cut logs made a perfect stop for coffee.

A very steep descent into a small valley led them to a narrow path and an uphill climb, crossing open moorland and to Craig Dinas Mine, which was mined for silica. Since its closure, the flooded galleries are utilised by cave divers. They continued on to the steep pathway that winds downhill to the stunning Sgwd yr Eira waterfall, which can be walked under, but not on this visit; then crossed moorland paths back to Penderyn.

Misty climb

LEADING a group from Penarth and District Ramblers for the first time, John R was joined by five walkers and rescue dog Ramakin at Blaen-y-glyn Uchaf car park situated beneath Craig y Fan Ddu, which they set about climbing.

A heavy mist hung over the central Beacons and upon reaching the top and following narrow paths above the steep escarpment, the surrounding views were almost blotted out.

Circumnavigating the twin cwms of Cwareli and Oergwm, there was still snow lying on parts of the rough tracks.

Eventually reaching Fan y Big, the mist was lifting from Cribyn and there were enjoyable views down the pretty Nant Menasgin valley.

Following the rough rocky drovers' road which lies adjacent to the Upper and Lower Neuadd reservoirs, a tramp back through the much depleted Taff Fechan Forest, where diseased trees have been removed, led to the road at Torpantau, which in turn led them back to their start point.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

ROADWORKS IN THE VALE

ROADWORKS: *Junction 34 Miskin Interchange; A4050 Port Road, from junction with Culverhouse Cross to its junction with Nant Isaf, Wenvoe; Church Road, Barry, to the side of Victoria Park Road in Cadoxton School, Barry; A4055 Harbour Road, Barry (the Causeway).*

Temporary traffic control: *B4265 throughout; A4050 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys; Five Mile Lane, Barry – temporary traffic control to allow for gully emptying to take place.*

Road closure: *Solent Road, Barry – to allow for the implementation of a flood management scheme.*

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

At the Senior Health Shop

DO you suffer from ME or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, or are you a carer looking after a loved one or relative?

MESIG is an organisation that supports sufferers and carers and can offer telephone support.

MESIG can offer practical and emotional support as well as financial, and has support groups in your area. An adviser from Cardiff and Vale local group will be available to chat on Tuesday, April 12, 10am to 12 midday at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Spring fayre

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a spring fayre at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, April 21, 10am to 12 midday.

There will be a wide range of attractive stalls with bargains for all. Admission is free. The spring fayre will be opened by Jane Hutt.

Refreshments will be available and there will also be a raffle. All proceeds of the fayre will be for The Age Connects Senior Health Shop. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

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CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

More than meets the eye!

Businesses that help to provide a vital 'heart-beat' for local economy

WHEN people think of what drives an economy they tend to think of multinationals, banks, and high street names. What they don't always consider are the unseen companies that employ local people, provide local services and re-invest locally.

Tucked away on the trading estates of Cardiff Road, Barry, are a host of SMEs (small to medium sized enterprises) – and the occasional large one – that are a vital ingredient in the Vale's economy.

Some provide a service to people in Barry and the rest of the Vale; others trade nationally or internationally via transport or the internet. Many are family businesses who have built up their reputations over decades.

The business areas covered are a wonder to behold – construction recruitment, self-storage facilities, professional vehicle valeting, printing services, car part and accessory needs, asbestos removal and disposal services, double glazing and door suppliers, fire and security, veterinary support, and more.

Here The GEM highlights many of the successful Barry trading estate companies that provide a heartbeat to the local economy.

CRYSTAL IT, FOR SERVICES TO LOCAL BUSINESSES

CRYSTAL IT provides IT services to businesses across south Wales, established in 2004 by our technical director, Chris Benson, with the aim of providing a multi-faceted IT service along with an IT security provision.

We specialise in cyber security, specifically due to Chris's background in military data security for over a decade. We hold the Government kite marks 'Cyber Essentials' and 'Cyber Essentials Plus®' and are accredited assessors of both.

We cover all aspects of general IT, consultation, maintenance, and servicing for SMEs and business from one to 50-plus computers. Some of our established clients include educational training, accountants, aviation, financial advisors, designers and surveyors.

We also have a drop-in service to look after a home users, providing clean ups, installations and set ups.

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PIER CONSULTING – your local construction recruits

PIER CONSULTING, a local construction recruiter, provides all disciplines of construction operatives to construction projects across south Wales.

A spokesman explained: "From construction site management, construction trades and labour, and mechanical and electrical trades, we have over 10 years in business placing workers in the construction industry, and over 50 years' team experience, placing more than 250 temporary workers every week to projects across south Wales.

"We pride ourselves in providing our clients and workers with a compliant service ensuring that our business abides with all the government legislation recently brought into effect.

"For construction workers who are maybe looking for a new assignment on a project in south Wales, from site management, labourers, machine operators, carpenters, electricians or plumbers, please get in touch today to see what projects we have available for you. Just call 01446 688886 and one of our friendly members of staff will be able to assist you."

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Celebrating 10 years of 'huge discounts' this April!

THOMPSON & SON, the local independent timber and builders' suppliers, next door to McDonald's, has an April sale promising BIG savings.

A spokesman said: "There are huge discounts available – some prices as they were back in 2006. Just call in, or ring 01446 737755 for more information.

"We are celebrating our 10th year of trading and have built up a fantastic reputation for competitiveness, prompt on-time deliveries, and knowledgeable friendly staff!

"We have over 1,500 stock items available 'off the shelf' from any of our three warehouses in Barry."

Thomson & Son is on Cardiff Road, Barry, CF63 2BE; see also facebook.com/thomsonandson.

TY VERLON KEEPS IT IN THE FAMILY

Lloyd's Auto Detailing provides that extra special valet.

Angela Baker of Baker's Baguettes has an impressive range of food for business visitors to try on the Ty Verlon Estate, and for members of the public who are passing by.

LLOYD'S Auto Detailing is run by Lloyd Baker.

Lloyd said: "I do valeting and paint correction for all types of vehicles. A valet costs between £15 and £250, depending on what a client wants done."

Across the road from Lloyds Auto Detailing is Baker's Baguettes, owned by Lloyd's mother, Angela.

It is open Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 3pm and serves a great range of breakfasts, jacket potatoes, paninis, omelettes, meals and drinks.

Angela said: "We provide a service for people who work on the estate and visitors, but members of the public are welcome too. Over time, we have had more and more passers-by."

Baker's Baguettes is on the left hand side on the main road onto the estate, opposite Lloyd's Auto Detailing.

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BE SAFE, NOT SORRY!

Callum Lee Twomey is happy to be the newest member of staff with VOG Fire & Security.

VOG Fire & Security is a local security company. We offer great value security to homes and businesses in south Wales, and guarantee to beat any like-for-like quotation.

Our main aim is to offer people affordable security, along with providing great service. With over 20 years of combined experience in the industry, you can be sure to receive the very best advice that will protect your home, family or business.

We also specialise in safety and protection systems for the elderly which are easy to use.

With the holiday season fast approaching, make sure that all your security measures are in place.

Take advantage of our special offer, which is available during April.

We are offering pet-friendly wireless alarm kit, usually £400 plus VAT, for only £300 plus VAT.

This includes installation by our professional team.

For free advice, survey or quotation, call VOG Fire & Security on 01446 739586, or 07815 047318.

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CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES
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In addition to their repair services, Expert Tech also provide online business solutions, such as website and email hosting, domain name purchases and cloud backup. With over 12 years' experience in the industry, Expert Tech offer FREE estimates on all repairs.

Drop by to see them at the Business Centre on Cardiff Road or contact them to arrange a call out to your home or business.

CARIAD CREATIVE

CARIAD CREATIVE is a local marketing and design company also based at the Business Centre in Barry.

Specialising in digital marketing, including web design and social media management, Cariad Creative help small and medium businesses get online and get noticed.

With experience in planning, implementing and evaluating marketing plans and events on a local, national and international scale, Cariad Creative aims to provide successful and affordable marketing to businesses across south Wales.

As well as digital services, Cariad Creative also design and print marketing materials such as business cards, letterheads and flyers. If you're looking to outsource your marketing, events management and advertising, Cariad Creative can act as your very own marketing manager.

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RICHARD IN FINAL OF 'VET OF THE YEAR'

VALE Veterinary Centre opened in December 2014 at Ty Verlon Industrial Estate. The centre has gone from strength-to-strength; so much so, that owner Richard Williams MRCVS, is pleased to welcome new vet Lorien Waterer MRCVS, who joined the practice in January.

Richard is committed to offering exceptional veterinary care and an impeccable service, at the surgery, or in your home.

The surgery is open seven days a week and also provides a 24-hour service.

Richard Williams of the Vale Veterinary Centre has reached the final three of the UK Vet of the Year. Judging takes place on April 7, and we will let you know how he gets on!

Danielle, Vale Veterinary Centre receptionist with Richard Williams MRCVS.

Serving The Vale of Glamorgan
Richard Williams BVSc BSc MRCVS (Owner)
Lorien Waterer MRCVS

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CARDIFF ROAD, BARRY INDUSTRIAL ESTATES
More than meets the eye!

Bead Room offers skills classes

THE Bead Room at Boxes and Busts is run by Paul and Louise Francis, who have been running the business for 13 years.

Paul said: "The business has changed over the years we have been trading, from purely packaging and display to now incorporating a full bead shop.

"We believe we are the biggest supplier of beads in south Wales and are now the only one in the area.

"We have a wide range of classes; from our own in-house taster sessions, where you can learn a new skill free of charge, to our in-house workshops, to international guest-run classes."

To see the full range of classes visit the website www.boxesandbusts.co.uk or call in the shop – or look at The GEM, where they regularly advertise. Visitors will always get a very warm welcome and always leave inspired by the wonderful range of jewellery-making items in stock.

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For more information or to book call at the shop or visit www.boxesandbusts.co.uk
Unit 19, Ty Verlon Ind est, Barry, CF63 2BE. Tel: 01446 701230.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news...
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New for 2016...
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CosmetUK are proud to launch our new for 2016 **'A-Peeling Gel'** Polish - The nail varnish replacement!
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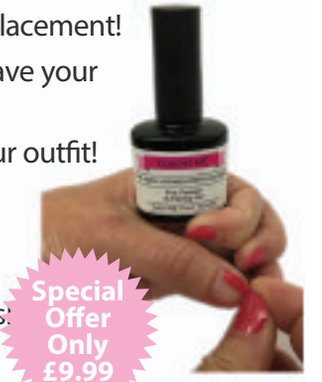

Special Offer Only £9.99

Progress made with Salisbury Road play area

LAST week, Illtyd representatives in Barry met Jane Hutt AM to welcome the news that progress is being made by the Vale Council with plans for a new playground on Salisbury Road.

Ms Hutt said this was welcome progress following the petition she helped launch last autumn, which called for new facilities to replace the outdated play area.

'We must face up to death and grief' – *SAYS ARCHBISHOP*

PEOPLE should not be afraid to talk about death, or be embarrassed to grieve, the Archbishop of Wales said this week.

Dr Barry Morgan called on people to "face the reality of death" in an address in which he drew on his own experience of bereavement following the death of his wife, Hilary, from cancer in January.

In his presidential address to members of the governing body of the Church in Wales at the start of its two-day meeting in Llandudno, the Archbishop thanked people for the concern they had shown him and said he had received more than 1,000 letters of condolence.

"But unless we, as Christians, are willing to face the reality and the finality in one sense of death, who is going to?"

For a copy of the Archbishop's full address, or for more information, contact Anna Morrell on 02920 348208; mobile: 07 91 91 587 94; 39 Cathedral Rd, Cardiff CF11 9XF.

It will be available online at www.churchinwales.org.uk.

More funding for Barry call

Coun Ian Johnson on Barry's Holton Road.

COUN Ian Johnson, Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, has expressed "disappointment" after the Welsh Government announced additional regeneration funding for 12 counties in Wales – but not for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Coun Johnson, Plaid councillor for the centre of Barry, said that it was a shame that it had missed the opportunity to help Barry town centre, having previously refused £15m of funding for the town.

Landlords are urged to meet legal obligations

COWBRIDGE estate agents Watts & Morgan are among those lending their support to a recently-launched scheme within the Welsh private housing sector, calling on local landlords to ensure they are aware of their new legal obligations.

Rent Smart Wales, a Welsh Government registration and licensing initiative, aims to improve standards throughout the private rental sector by ensuring landlords and letting agents attend training in order to obtain a licence.

It is also envisaged that the scheme will help promote tenants' rights and responsibilities by making information more widely available.

All private landlords are required to register themselves and their properties with Rent Smart Wales, while landlords who let and manage their properties must also obtain a licence. To achieve this, applicants will make a declaration that they are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence, and they and their employees must undertake, and pass, approved training.

For further information, visit the Rent Smart Wales website www.rentsmart.gov.wales or call 03000 133344.

WASH BOILER WANTED!

THE Barry at War Group is looking for a 1940s-era stove and wash boiler for our wartime kitchen. Can you help?

We are also planning for our fifth Wartime Weekend from September 3 – 4 and are seeking sponsors and supporters and participants.

The museum at Barry Island Railway Station will be open from 10am – 4pm on Sunday, April 10. There will also be a craft fair in the building – free admission.

The museum is also open every Wednesday 2pm – 4pm.

RETHINK ON DISABLED PARKING CHARGES WELCOME

NEWS that Bridgend County Borough Council is having a re-think about how to introduce charges for disabled drivers in council car parks has been welcomed by Regional AM Suzy Davies.

Welsh Conservative Mrs Davies was among those who urged the council to scrap plans to introduce charges which would cost £70,000, because of the need to modify ticket machines.

Mrs Davies has also challenged the council's view that introducing these charges would generate £165,000 a year in extra income.

She said: "The council seems to think that disabled drivers would meekly continue to shop in Bridgend and pay these charges. In the real world, there is a distinct possibility that they will instead travel to places where there are no charges – which include Maesteg town centre as well as out of town retail sites and supermarkets.

"I am deeply concerned about the effect this proposal would have on trade in Bridgend town centre. We have already seen that footfall is down 13 per cent year on year, so making it difficult for this group of shoppers to patronise town centre businesses could be disastrous.

"Many disabled shoppers have traditionally patronised the market, but changes to the Shopmobility scheme caused by the demolition of the Rhiw car park have already cut into this. The scooters are now based in the Brackla multi-storey – bang next to Asda and further away from the market.

"Deciding to charge disabled drivers will be a double whammy for town centre traders, who are already struggling."

Mrs Davies urged disabled drivers and their families to take part in the new consultation.

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D925.

- **£2,000:** 863445.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £3,500 was not not won this week.**
- **£10:** 879589, 738837, 804095, 582721, 432135, 719225, 258650, 453886, 604465, 413374, 708650, 235935, 354579, 441418, 472836, 153606, 463014, 194871, 331154, 908119.
- **£5:** 421467, 487410, 623503, 539998, 644239, 239631, 718829, 703151, 467731, 588916, 850416, 465988, 535161, 722752, 670783, 771335, 588562, 766372, 779711, 301111, 852522, 567801, 250021, 711873, 578830, 323396, 613374, 760115, 885362, 725294, 645975, 366756, 459684, 837038, 484089, 708424, 766360, 864141, 468939, 495078, 570508, 938691, 659976, 629271, 180666, 262166, 901791, 522533, 705031, 404114, 361853, 659852, 866301, 108973, 247323, 819156, 359896, 526936, 241760, 000002.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Councillor's call on dental services

A BARRY councillor has called on Cardiff & Vale UHB to give a presentation on the future of dental services at Barry Hospital.

Richard Bertin (Independent) has asked for a presentation to be given to the Vale's social care committee in response to public concern over the retirement of the current dentist.

Cardiff & Vale UHB has said a tendering progress is currently under way to find a replacement dentist at the hospital, but Coun Bertin is seeking reassurance that the service will not be cut and will continue in the same form in future.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

PICTURED (left to right): Coun Charles Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at BCBC; Coun David White, Town Mayor; Carwyn Jones and the president of Bridgend Lions, Phil Davies.

AM opens Lions' charity book fair

BRIDGEND AM Carwyn Jones officially opened the Lions' Club of Bridgend's charity book fair last Friday.

Held over three days, the Lions' book fair is the largest charity book fair in Wales. The event was held at the Westward Community Centre.

All the books for sale had been donated by the public.

The event started in 1994 and since then has raised a substantial amount of money for good causes.

Mr Jones said: "I very much enjoyed attending the charity book fair and I would like to congratulate the Bridgend Lions on their tremendous fundraising efforts. The event was very popular. My staff and I bought a number of books, including a series of Colin Dexter's Inspector Morse books".

NO PURSUIT IS TOO TRIVIAL FOR PLAYERS!

FRANK VICKERY'S one-act and three-act plays featuring Valley people, their lives and humour have been very popular with audiences during the group's 50 year history, so much so that many have been repeated after original production.

For the spring production this year, the Dinas Powys Players have selected *Trivial Pursuits,* first presented by Frank Vickery at the Parc and Dare Theatre in 1987 and subsequently at the Duke of York Theatre in London.

The Dinas Powys Players then presented it at the Parish Hall, Britway Road in 1992.

The setting is the Trealaw and District Operatic Society's meeting to announce casting and plum roles for four people, and the complex relationship between them emerge as moments of pure slapstick and farce with ones of real drama and pathos.

The group is confident that *Trivial Pursuits* will be enjoyed again by those who saw the original Parish Hall production almost 25 years ago, as it will be by those new to it.

Rehearsals are well advanced under the experienced and firm control of Catherine Cook (directing for the Players for the first time).

The cast includes Graham and Cynth Russell, Sue Gibbons, Annie Orchard and Pat Tadecicco, who appeared in the 1992 presentation, together with Andrew Gibbons, Tara Garmston, Maurice Lawrence, Georgy Mintowt-Czyz and Phil Sage.

Trivial Pursuits will be presented at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys on April 14, 15 and 16 at 7.30pm nightly.

For tickets, telephone 029 20512868 or 029 21406168.

DAVID WARNE

Iolo launches children's library scheme

WELSH libraries and primary schools are joining forces to provide every primary school child with a library card.

The project started in March 2014 with six local authorities piloting the initiative and thanks to Welsh Government funding from the Department of Culture, Sport and Tourism, this has now been rolled out to the final six local authorities in Wales.

Over 12,700 children were issued with a new library card in 2014-15, resulting in 28,938 books being issued to children with the new cards over just a three month period.

Launching the initiative in the Vale today, Iolo Williams – one of Wales' most renowned naturalists and wildlife presenters said: "Libraries are such an important resource - they are a great place for children to let their imagination grow and to develop and it is vitally important that we encourage our children to read more not only to improve their literacy levels but also to help them with life skills and future opportunities."

Iolo Williams helped to launch the scheme at Barry Library. Year-4 pupils from St Helen's Junior School and Ysgol Sant Curig came to the library to meet Iolo and find out more about the services the library has to offer. They then received their specially design cards and a free bag to help them carry their books home.

The cabinet member for adult services, Coun Stuart Egan, said: "We are pleased to support this fantastic initiative that will inspire children in the Vale to make the most of our libraries.

"With their new library card and free book bag, they can borrow books straight away and take them home to enjoy."

For more information please visit: www.welshlibraries.org/schools.

Chilling echo of a ghostly tread at old police station

THE old police station in Porthcawl is a striking building in its own right...Now the town museum, and used by other organisations such as the art society, this two-storey building with six gabled bays has narrow attic openings paired to the right.

It was built by John Pritchard, a Diocesan architect from Llandaff who designed many other structures in the area.

The original police station's purpose was to keep law and order within the town of Newton Nottage (as it was known at the time) and consisted of a jail, superintendent's house and prisoners yard to the rear. According to Buildings of Wales documentation, the old police station was built in 1877 and remained in use until 1973. It was awarded a Grade II listing status in 1989.

The first floor of the structure's frontage has sash windows, all with relieving arches. The main station itself was to the left with a central shouldered doorway beside a sash window with lintel and original lettering, whereas to the right the superintendent's house could be located.

This, at the time, was visually separated from the main police station by a deeply recessed and pointed arched entrance of two orders with spur bases. The doors were boarded with strapwork hinges as a safeguard against possible prisoner escape.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Mair Harrys, who informed me that during World War Two, the old police station was used as a fire station as she often drove the fire engine in emergencies with the majority of local men required to fight in the war.

The building's design is in typical mock-Tudor style, which was popular during that era, and was decked with modern features for the period with rock faced stone coursed to the left and to the right it was decked with ashlar dressings. Also popular at the time were slate roof terracotta ridge tiles. Large blue brick chimney stacks with octagonal flues was a fashionable style for this type of building back then too.

The museum was closed for refurbishment in 1997, and the jail was reported to be largely intact with a whitewashed bricked corridor and three cells with small pane windows and round arched bricked vaulted ceilings. For security, the cells were boarded and doors studded for the protection of the modern-day visitors. Outside in the backyard, the windows give a daunting reminder of how cramped and unwelcoming these cells were for any criminal venturing into unlawful activity.

Due to its age and location in such a busy town throughout time, it would be inevitable that Porthcawl Museum attracts visitors of the supernatural kind.

The chilling echo of a ghostly being treading the boards of the upper floors wearing what sounds like heavy rubber-soled boots has been heard on a few occasions, sending shivers down the spines of visitors. Could this be a manifestation of the activities of the building's working past haunting our present?

In the upper gallery, the eerie appearance of a middle-aged man wearing Victorian dress has been reported to walk along its floors, only to vanish into thin air. Who could this gentleman be, and what entices him to revisit a building which has changed beyond his outmoded duties?

The sight of a flickering phantom lantern has been seen seemingly floating in mid air around the entrance corridor before disappearing at the blink of an eye; yet no person seeming to accompany its ghostly appearance.

Could the wardens of yesteryear be guiding the living through the darkness of time, or could this just be a misjudged figment of the imagination of the living?

Fact or fiction? *It's up to you to decide...*

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Penarth charity sets sail for funding success

Getting set for a Voyage of Discovery'.

LOCAL sailing charity *Challenge Wales* has been awarded almost £250,000 by the Big Lottery Fund, enabling the charity to work with even more young people locally and throughout Wales over the next three years.

The funding is specifically for its 'Voyages of Discovery' project, enabling the charity to work with 400 Welsh young people who will be learning employable skills on accredited day and residential voyages.

This will include teamwork and communication skills, decision making and planning skills as well as developing self-confidence; 100 volunteers will also benefit from additional training and support plus a new part time education officer role will be created.

Trustee Vicky Williams stated: "This is an amazing opportunity for *Challenge Wales* to make a real difference in the outlook of many young people locally, in Penarth and the Vale, as well as further afield.

"Although *Challenge Wales* works with a wide range of young people aged under 26 years in its sail training activities, the 'Voyages of Discovery' project in particular is linking in with local authority strategic plans and the Welsh Government's Tackling Poverty action plan to work with disadvantaged young people and groups."

Challenge Wales' home port is Penarth marina, where she has been based for the last seven years.

Last time Challenge Wales received funding from the Big Lottery Fund was for its 'Turning the Tide' project, where after going to a public vote on TV the charity won funding to adapt the boat and provide sailing experiences for visually impaired and blind young people.

Pencoed Phoenix squad. ALL PICTURES BY STUART DYCKHOFF

SUCCESS FOR PHOENIX TEAMS

Pencoed Phoenix girls.

PENCOED Phoenix under-15s and under-18s squads travelled over the boarder to Gloucester for a day's rugby.

Both teams won their games. The squad were the most successful Phoenix sides to tour across the border in the history of the Phoenix, which has only been in existence since 2010.

Against Drybrook RFC from Gloucester, the under-15s won 31-26; scorers Jade Thomas (two tries), Taylor May Briggs, Liv Evans and Emily Carmody with two conversions from Rosie Carr and one from Evie Evans. Lady of the match was Liv Evans.

In the under-18s game, Gloucester under-18s were beaten 32-50 by the Phoenix under-18s; scorers Megan Griffith, Ella Roberts, Gwen Crabb (four tries) and Kayleigh Powell (two tries) who also kicked five conversions. Lady of the match was Kayleigh Powell.

All welcome to join this squad - contact Pencoed RFC on 01656 860152 or visit our Facebook page.

JH

Hats on parade at Cottrell Park

SPRING has sprung with an abundance of primroses, daffodils, buttercups and snowdrops, in the grounds of Cottrell Park golf course.

The hooter sounded at 9.15 a.m. on March 24, and 27 ladies set off with a spring in their step on their quest for glory.

It was the Easter 12 hole Stapleford competition on the Mackintosh course. They were divided into teams of three but victory awaited only one team. The rain did not hold off but failed to dampen the spirits.

Forty one ladies attended for the Easter lunch, and captain Sian Lovell acknowledged the loss of Deirdre Murphy after a long illness. She will be sadly missed. Grace was said by the vice-captain Chris Evans.

It was a time to celebrate with the spring equinox and new beginnings of another golf season, she said.

Spring returned in the form an array of wonderful Easter Bonnets. There were chicks, eggs, bunnies, flowers, ribbons and bows in all colours to brighten up the day.

The team competition was won by Patricia Davies, Tina Morgan and Maggie Thomas with 49 points. The winter eclectic trophy was presented to Vicki Long.

The Easter Bonnet competition was judged by a member of staff Ben who awarded Sian Lovell with first prize; second prize was won by Vicki Long. There were lots of raffle prizes too. An enjoyable day was had by all.

The ladies have introduced a coffee morning on the first Monday of each month at 10.30am in Cottrell Park where past and present members can come together for a friendly chat over a cup of tea.

New members of all abilities are always welcome to join in the fun on and off the golf course.

RD

Vale of Glamorgan Football League
news round-up

THE big story of the weekend was Cardiff Airport representing the Vale in the SWFA Intermediate Cup.

The VOGAFL champions impressively dispatched Hirwaun Sports 4-0 in the semi-finals to set up a final with the much-fancied Trebanog FC. Good luck to the Airport in the final on May 4.

In Premier Division action, second place Wenvoe Arms were held 2-2 by AFC Rhoose. Wenvoe find themselves six points of league leaders St Athan, who did not play this weekend due to a waterlogged pitch after the heavy rain in the early hours of Saturday.

Elsewhere Dinas Powys Athletic edged out Masons Moving Group 3-2 to leapfrog them into seventh.

SP Construction finally lifted themselves off the foot of the table with a 3-2 victory over strugglers Penarth Town.

In the Premier Divisions ASRS Cup, Barry Athletic booked a semi- final spot with a 4-1 win over Cowbridge Town.

The First Division's fixture list was left decimated by the weather but the big clash of the weekend saw second place Cogan Coronation end Vale United's 10 game undefeated steak with a last-minute winner to secure a 2-1 win.

A vital win for Cogan as they now sit just a point off Sully Sports with two games in hand; this result must make Cogan the odds-on favourites.

Division Two leaders Barry Athletic B romped to a huge 13-0 bottom side Cowbridge Town B in the only fixture in the third tier. Athletic B have Dockers hot on their tail as that title race hots up.

This week's pick of the matches is the Dockers Cup final. Can Barry Albion cause an upset or will Dockers Reunited win the cup of the same name in their first season back in the league?

Also, Cogan play Barry Belgrade in the Supporters Cup semi-finals for the right to play Vale United.

HD

AWARENESS DAY SHOWCASES LOCAL GROUPS

BRIDGEND Civic Trust will be holding an Awareness Day at Carnegie House (formerly Bridgend Library) on Saturday, April 23 from 10am-4pm, to showcase the work of the voluntary organisations of Bridgend.

These include: Bridgend Civic Trust, Bridgend Lions Club, Bridgend Town Councila nd Arts Hub, Bridgend and District History Society, Ty'r Ardd Local and Family History Centre, Soroptimist International, Porthcawl History and Museum, Glamorgan Family History Society (Bridgend branch) St John's House, Bridgend Town Twinning. All welcome.

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

Bridgend Industrial Estate is a great place to do business!

THERE is no getting away from the fact that the name 'industrial estate' brings to mind factories and the like – but there is much more to the Bridgend Industrial Estate than manufacturing facilities.

The wide variety of businesses now operating from this base has made it an important part of the south Wales retail mix.

After all, the estate's proximity to the M4 means that it is well within the range of customers from the east and west – customers who would not normally pencil in Bridgend.

A case in point is **Gravells**, who opened their Kia dealership not quite two years ago. The company has found that customers have travelled from Swansea, Barry, Cardiff, and even Cwmbran.

Mind, it helps if you have confidence in the location, and Cassian Wright of Gravells explained why they did: "We were impressed by the number of new businesses opening, and by the way units were being refurbished.

"We were looking to open the largest Kia showroom in Wales, and this turned out to be the ideal location. We are running at double our target figures."

It has made the company a sizeable local employer, with 12 staff. Gravells took on their first apprentice last year, and are looking to add another.

With workshop facilities, free courtesy cars and a large used car display area, the company is clearly offering customers what they want.

Mr Wright added: "Clearly, we are very pleased, but we have also been delighted to see other new businesses start up on the estate in the time we have been here."

One such new business is **The Woodyard**, run by husband-and-wife Will and Anne Tudor. They opened just 18 months ago and business has been good.

Anne told The GEM: "We have a huge range of timbers, and stock fencing, decking, garden furniture, sheds and gazebos.

"We can also have bespoke sheds made up to customers' requirements.

"Things have gone really well, and we recently added a gift shop, which has a great range of items – including antiques, homeware and wooden toys!"

Another company that has been on the estate for two years – and which feels it made the right choice – is **Andrew Allen Gas and Plumbing**.

Andrew told The GEM: "I've been in the business since 1993, but it was two years ago that we took office space here.

"My daughter runs the office, while I concentrate on the gas and plumbing repairs.

"We have definitely picked up more business through being associaited with the industrial estate."

Of course, not every business has opened in the last two or three years. Some have been there as long as locals can remember!

Also in the motor trade on the estate is **Mirror Image,** which is run by Mark Johnson.

Mark has 22 years experience in the motor industry, and Mirror Image offers a complete bodyshop service, employing four staff.

Mark said: "We handle everything from scuffs to major repairs. We mix the paint on site, and colour matching is never a problem."

Another business that is thriving on the Bridgend Industrial Estate is **G2S Wales**, who have opened a new window and door showroom.

A spokeswoman said: "We have a great range of products on display, and experienced staff on hand to assist with any enquiry.

"If you are considering any improvements to your home this spring, then G2S Wales can help with double and triple-glazed windows, front and back doors, new fascias and guttering, and many other products. With finance packages available to suit every budget, you are in safe hands."

One long-established business on the estate is **Theodore Reclamation and Building Salvage,** which is run by Denis Theodore, his wife Pat, and sons Chad and Chay.

He has been on the estate for 24 years, and there is still a reminder on his plot of the estate's former existence.

It was, of course, a massive arsenal during World War Two, and there is still and explosives store on Denis' premises. (Unfortunately, it is not easily viible to the public).

Denis was recycling long before it became fashionable, and one claim to fame is that, back in 1966, he was involved in demolishing a number of buildings in Cardiff, and used the reclaimed materials to build a caravan park in west Wales!

Denis said: "We are very proud that our business has been awarded the Green Dragon Certificate for our contribution and on-going commitment to recycling and reusing of all types of building materials.

"At this time of year, we find people are looking for garden items and we have a massive range here, including bird baths, flagstones, bricks, and statues.

"Doors and windows are popular too, and we have a huge range.'

It's well worth wandering around Theodore's. After all, any premises that can offer a range of church pews must be able to surprise you!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31)

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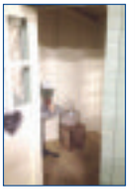

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Celtic Tyres – *pride, good service, price and honesty*

CELTIC TYRES has been on the Bridgend Industrial Estate since the early 1960s – celebrating 50 years of serving the community back in 2013.

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The business is still family-owned, run by his son Richard.

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BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Business update...

Professionals - Just a stone's throw away!

Helping local businesses – *with commercial storage, office space and support services*

DAINTON Self Storage offer their business customers more than just commercial storage; the secure and flexible drive-up storage units are certainly popular with all kinds of businesses, from tradesmen to retailers.

However, Dainton can also provide office space, archive storage and forklift facilities for unloading deliveries. With staff on site during reception opening hours, businesses can have post and deliveries sent to Dainton Self Storage too.

Businesses take advantage of Dainton's commercial services to store seasonal stock, office furniture, paperwork and more. There is secure storage for vehicles and machinery, while small businesses use the storage units as distribution points.

Dainton's Coity Road site also has 12 new offices that are aimed at helping Bridgend's budding entrepreneurs, start-up companies and small businesses.

Dainton's Bridgend manager, Jamie Richards, said: "Many small businesses and start-ups outgrow their home premises and need more space to expand.

"We can provide those businesses with the opportunity for growth without the overheads of crippling business rates or being locked into a long-term contract.

"We understand that flexibility and competitiveness are key to small and medium sized businesses, so we offer commercial services to support our storage customers and office tenants."

In addition, Dainton also supplies portable buildings and storage containers for sale and hire. The portable buildings come in all shapes and sizes, can be used on building sites as welfare units, kitchens, toilets and shower blocks and they make excellent additional space for use as a classroom, office space, pop-up shop or cafe.

And, if you have a portable building to sell Dainton is happy to buy it from you, or to accept it in part-exchange.

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3	£1,752	£73.00	£22.65
5	£2,920	£121.66	£37.75
7	£4,088	£170.33	£52.85
9	£5,256	£219.00	£67.95

OR

TRIPLE GLAZED WINDOWS

Number of Triple Glazed Windows	Package Price	24 Monthly Payments at 0% APR	120 Monthly Payments at 9.9% APR
3	£1,902	£79.25	£24.59
5	£3,170	£132.08	£40.98
7	£4,438	£184.92	£57.38
9	£5,706	£232.75	£73.77

Worked finance example: 5 Double Glazed Windows at a package price of £2,920.00 pay £121.66 per month for 24 months at 0% APR. Total amount payable £2,920.00 charge for credit £0.00.
Worked finance example: 5 Double Glazed Windows at a package price of £2,920.00 pay £37.75 per month for 120 months at 9.9% APR. Total amount payable £4,530.00 charge for credit £1,610.00.

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The message to customers at G2S Wales is clear – WELCOME!

Riverside Hardware, a family-run business for 60 years

RIVERSIDE Hardware remains a family concern and is currently under the management of Managing Directors Mr Russell John and Mr Ryan Woodbridge.

Having broken away from Riverside Industrial Equipment and the Riverside Group in 2010, it has enjoyed continued growth and has further plans for expansion in the near future.

Riverside Hardware is well known throughout south Wales for an unrivalled range of fixings and fasteners, PPE and janitorial products.

With a wealth of knowledge, and a combination of over 135 years of expertise in the industry, we are the envy of our competitors.

As one of the largest stockists of Draper Tools in the UK, and also one of the main dealers for Calor Gas in south Wales, there is no doubt that Riverside will have the solution for you.

Riverside Hardware has always strongly supported the local community, recently coming to the end of a three-year deal that secured the naming rights of Bridgend's Brewery Field, known as the Riverside Hardware Brewery Field.

Riverside Hardware recently sponsored an event that brought *X Factor*'s Stereo Kicks to Bridgend to perform live at Bridgend College.

This event gave 300 local children the opportunity to see this exclusive performance free of charge, thanks to Riverside Hardware.

Riverside was the main sponsor of the rally driver, Mark Ellis, for several years; and of local jockey, Rachel Leyshon.

It is also the main kit sponsor for Porthcawl RFC under-11s.

News from Pencoed Comprehensive

Mr David George, headteacher, with prize evening guests.

A-level students' practical exam.

Prize evening

THIS was a lovely evening, focusing completely on the pupils and the wide range of prizes and awards they had won in all areas of curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Pupils and staff also listened to purposeful addresses by Mr David George, headteacher; Mr Andy Rea, chair of governors and our guest speaker, Mrs Ceri Doyle, chief executive of Newport City Homes. Coun R Jenkins, Deputy Mayor of Bridgend, Coun R J Hancock, Mayor of Pencoed and Melissa Clay, of Wales International Rugby awarded prizes during the evening.

Mrs Doyle's address was highly inspirational keeping the whole audience entertained. Drawing on her own varied career path in both the public and private sector, she advised the young people present to make the best of their skills and talents in their future careers.

All those who attended also enjoyed the musical items performed by Charlotte Jones, Hannah Smith and Megan Jenkins. The video clips of the pupils proved a big hit again this year – especially the out-takes! Thank you very much to Mrs Sam Evans, deputy headteacher, for guiding us through the evening and to Mrs Jill Newman, supported by Mrs Sue Miles for the organisation of the event and Ms Meg Rule on the video presentation. A copy of the prize evening brochure, providing you with the complete list of prizewinners as well as updates from all our departments is available on our website: www.pencoedcs.bridgend.sch.uk.

Spring concert

THIS was another memorable concert, full of variety and showcasing the wonderful talents of our pupils, as well as those of the primary school pupils who joined us again this year.

The first part of the programme focused mainly on instrumental items. The programme started with two items by the school orchestra, with many of those talented pupils being from key stage 3. The orchestra was followed by a variety of performances by different pupils which included a woodwind group, strings group, combined strings, cello quintet, guitar group, and a drum expo.

There was also a combined orchestra with the primary pupils as well a primary school bass group performance of 'All Through the Night'. Before the interval we enjoyed a wonderfully vibrant showcase from 'Back to the 80s' performed by primary school pupils and our drama club pupils.

This show was the end result of workshops held by our staff and pupils in the primary school as part of the 'Moving on Up' transition programme.

The second part of the concert started with the choir performing sections from *Shrek the Musical*. Members of the choir took on the personae of a variety of characters, delighting the audience with their dramatic presentation. This was followed by individual instrumental items by Neve Bartle, Emma Powson and Jenna Dyckhoff and solo vocal items by Hannah Smith, Megan Jenkins (who accompanied herself on her ukulele), Lauren Woodward and Charlotte Jones.

All of these were superb performances, followed by a wonderful finale by the choir. The finale was a medley from *Beauty and the Beast,* effortlessly combining music, dance and narration. The range of amazing talent displayed by pupils of all ages was a delight to experience. Thank you to all those who took part in the concert and the teaching staff from primary schools and the technical team.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Rhian Jenkins, head of music for producing the event so professionally and to Mrs Kay Smith, Mrs Alex Hewitt, and the peripatetic music teachers for the time spent working with the pupils in readiness for the concert. What was apparent this year again was that the high standard of performing talent at Pencoed Comprehensive is here to stay for many years to come.

Eisteddfod

THE lower and upper school eisteddfodau were held on two consecutive days in early March, with over 200 pupils from local primary schools also joining us.

What an energetic, noisy and enjoyable two days, led wonderfully by Mr David Owen! As ever, each head of house led their houses with great enthusiasm, with Owain being the overall winners.

The eisteddfod chair competition was won this year by Cameron L Williams. Extra special congratulations also go to Emma Powson, who entered an incredible 24 competitions – it's the third year running that Emma has entered more competitions than anyone else! *Diolch yn fawr iawn* to everyone who took part.

Religious eductation

THE RE department organised various visits over the term. As part of their Buddhism module, year-12 religious studies students and Mrs C Rees visited the Cardiff Buddhist Centre.

There, they participated in a question and answer session with an ordained Buddhist, visited the shrine room, learnt how Buddhists worship and participated in a meditation activity. They all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and benefited from these activities.

Rhiannon Evans and Emily Morgan, year-12 pupils, along with Miss S Williams recently went on a one-day visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. This was part of a scheme with the Holocaust Educational Trust called Lessons from Auschwitz.

From the seminars attended, they developed an understanding of pre-war Jewish life and commemorated the lives of the people lost, along with the loss of culture and customs. They were also privileged to meet Eva Clarke, a Jewish Holocaust survivor who born in Auschwitz-Birkenau, a week before the camp was liberated by the allies.

The pupils said: "No matter what pictures or videos you see of Auschwitz-Birkenau, unless you visit you will never truly understand the extent of what happened. We found the programme eye-opening and it put life into perspective.

"We are planning on inviting a survivor in to talk to year-12 and will also be holding a series of activities with pupils from years 7 – 10, to increase their knowledge of the Holocaust as part of the summer programme."

In February, pupils in 7.1 RE celebrated the Chinese New Year with Miss S Williams by making greeting cards, lucky red lanterns and masks.

Having researched the birth years of friends and family to find out their Chinese zodiac sign – 7.1 were deemed to be Monkeys and Goats! The week of celebrations culminated with pupils creating decorative dragons and performing the famous Lion Dance. Great fun was had by all!

Drama

GET your roller skates and leg warmers ready – the cast of *Back to the 80s* are ready to rock!

Over 100 pupils are busy rehearsing and raising funds for the school show which takes place on July 14, 15,and 16. It is an energetic and fun show which includes songs such as 'Footloose', 'Dancing on the Ceiling' and 'Time of My Life'.

Forty-seven of the cast spent a weekend in Dan-y-Coed in Swansea in January, blocking and choreographing act one; and on March 10 held a sponsored rehearsal to help pay for the hire of the orchestra and lighting rig.

Other fundraising events include the 'Smartie Challenge' and raffle. The drama department and pupil committee are very grateful to all parents and local businesses who have donated prizes and sponsored the show so far.

The lower school drama club have also been 'rocking the boat' with their new production *Guys and Dolls,* which will be performed in the drama studio in June.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Hewitt are blown away by the talent of all the pupils in drama, but there is a particularly strong cast this year in the lower school production and plenty of up and coming stars!

Tickets for both shows will be on sale after Easter so be quick – they sell out fast!

All exam classes have been under the spotlight recently and year-13 gave their final exam performance in March.

The standard was extremely high and Mrs Smith was very proud of how they conducted themselves in front of the external examiner. This time of year is very busy for the drama department, with four practical exams in just over a month! Good luck all!

The Moving On Up team have been on the road once again and visiting local primary schools with the transition drama workshop. The younger pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning a song and routine from *Back to the 80s* and performed brilliantly in the showcase that was as part of the spring concert. Thank you to all pupils who represented Pencoed on the tour. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school.

LH

(SEE NEXT WEEK'S GEM FOR MORE NEWS FROM PENCOED COMPREHENSIVE)

Cerys and Neve celebrating International Women's Day.

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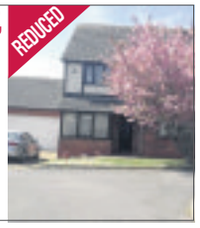

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- Close to town centre
- Off road parking

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SSTC

- Detached house
- 6 bedrooms
- Large garden
- Twin garage

£499,950

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SSTC

- Detached character cottage
- 3 double bedrooms
- 4 acres of pasture land
- Stable block

£499,500

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SSTC

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- 2 reception rooms
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EPC - D

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- Generous and flexible accommodation
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EPC - C

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- Well-presented, detached family home
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- Large landscaped gardens

EPC - F

£420,000

Heol Yr Ysgol, St Brides Major

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EPC - C £275,000

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NEW
MORGAN STREET, BARRY
• END OF TERRACED
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• GROUND FLR. BATHROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• IN NEED OF UPDATING
• NO CHAIN
• ER=E
£89,950

NEW
BARRIANS WAY, BARRY
• TOP FLOOR APARTMENT
• TWO BEDROOMS
• LIVING ROOM
• SPACIOUS KITCHEN/DINER
• FAM. BATHROOM
• DESIGNATED PARKING
• OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING VIA COMBI
• ER=C
£114,950

NEW
WELFORD STREET, BARRY
• SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME
• MID TERRACED
• THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• SPACIOUS KITCHEN/DINER
• ORIGINAL FEATURES THROUGHOUT
• MINUTES WALK TO BEACHES
• ER = E
£184,950

NEW
ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
• SPACIOUS SEMI DETACHED
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• DINING AREA, CONSERVATORY
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS,SHOWER ROOM
• STAIRS RISING TO ATTIC/HOBBY AREA
• DRIVEWAY PROVIDING PARKING
• GARAGE VIA REAR LANE
• VIEWING ADVISED
• ER - E
£374,950

NEW
COLDBROOK ROAD, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL DWELLING
• SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• OPEN PLAN KITCHEN/DINER
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FAM. BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• ER=D
£135,000

NEW
TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL MID TERRACED
• GRND FLR:- LIVING,SITTING & DINING ROOM
• FAM.: BATHROOM,KITCHEN
• TO THE 1ST:- THREE BEDROOMS,
• KITCHEN (PREV. FOURTH BEDROOM)
• FAM. BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN (SOLD AS SEEN)
• ER = D
£134,950

NEW
ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
• SPACIOUS SEMI DETACHED
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• DINING AREA, CONSERVATORY
• W.C. CLOAKROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS,SHOWER ROOM
• STAIRS RISING TO ATTIC/HOBBY AREA
• DRIVEWAY PROVIDING PARKING
• GARAGE VIA REAR LANE
• VIEWING ADVISED
• ER - E
£374,950

NEW
POWIS VIEW, BARRY
• WELL PRESENTED
• 1ST FLOOR APARTMENT
• REPLACEMENT KITCHEN
• REPLACEMENT BATHROOM
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• GAS CENTRAL HEATING VIA COMBI BOILER
• UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
• ER=C
£99,950

NEW
BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY
• SEMI DETACHED
• PLACED ON GENEROUS PLOT
• LIVING ROOM
• KITCHEN/DINER
• THREE BEDROOMS
• ATTIC/HOBBY AREA
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• DRIVEWAY/PARKING
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
£164,950

NEW PRICE
TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL SEMI DETACHED
• ORIGINAL FEATURES THROUGHOUT
• LIVING ROOM
• DINING ROOM OPENING TO KITCHEN
• SITTING ROOM
• FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• SPACIOUS FAMILY BATHROOM
• SEA VIEWS FROM THE REAR
• LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
• ER=E
£229,950

NEW PRICE
GREENWOOD STREET, BARRY
• 3 BED MID TERRACED
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
• REPLACEMENT UPVC D/G THROUGHOUT
• VERY WELL PRESENTED
• VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
• ER = D
£116,500

NEW PRICE
OXFORD STREET, BARRY
• BAY FRONTED MID TERRACE
• SPACIOUS LIVING ACCOMMODATION
• 4 BEDROOMS
• LIVING ROOM & DINING ROOM
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
• UPVC DG & COMBI BOILER
• MINUTES WALK TO PORTHCERI PARK, ROMILLY SCHOOLS & SHOPS
• ER = D
£172,000

NEW PRICE
CERI AVENUE, RHOOSE
• SPACIOUS EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED
• GRND FLR:-LIVING ROOM
• TWO BEDROOMS
• DINING ROOM
• 16FT. FITTED KITCHEN
• FAM. BATHROOM
• 1ST FLR:- SITTING AREA/BEDROOM
• ENSUITE SHOWER ROOM
• GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
• ER = C
£229,950

LON FFERM FELIN, BARRY
• MODERN DETACHED
• LIVING/DINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN,UTILITY RM
• FOUR BEDROOMS (MASTER ENSUITE)
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• ER = D
£269,950

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
• VERSATILE LIVING
• THREE STOREY TRADITIONAL
• TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
• 4 BEDROOMS
• RECENTLY REPLACED COMBI BOILER
• WELL PRESENTED
• LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN
• CONVENIENT LOCATION
• FAR REACHING SEA VIEWS
• ER=E
£185,000

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL MID TERRACED DWELLING
• TWO LIVING ROOMS
• SPACIOUS DINER/KITCHEN
• FOUR BEDROOMS WITH ENSUITE
• FAR REACHING VIEWS ACROSS BRISTOL CHANNEL
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
• WELL PRESENTED THROUGHOUT
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• EPC = E
£217,000

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
• TRADITIONAL MID TERRACE
• THREE BEDROOMS
• LIVING/DINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
• TOWN CENTRE LOCATION
• UPVC D/G & GCH
• NO CHAIN
• ER = D
£116,500

BELL STREET, BARRY
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• COMPLETELY REFURBISHED
• STUNNING PRESENTATION
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• EXTENDED KITCHEN/DINER
• TWO BEDROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM TO 1ST FLR
• NO CHAIN
• ER=C
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UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING

OGMORE VALE
£139,995
Park Avenue, CF32 7DH
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CONSERVATORY
GARAGE. COMBI BOILER

LLANTWIT MAJOR
£140,000
Maes Illtuds, CF61 2SD
TWO BEDROOM. UPVC WINDOWS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
FREEHOLD. OFF ROAD PARKING

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£155,000
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MODERN DETACHED PROPERTY. NO FORWARD CHAIN
FOUR GOOD SIZED BEDROOMS. FITTED KITCHEN
TWO RECEPTION ROOMS. OFF ROAD PARKING

NEW
ST ATHAN
£174,950
Glebeland Place, CF62 4PQ
FREEHOLD. UPVC WINDOWS
THREE BEDROOMS. THREE RECEPTIONS ROOMS
LOFT ROOM. GAS CENTRAL HEATING

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£199,995
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SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW
TWO BEDROOMS
FREEHOLD. GARAGE

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A stroll around Barry Dock with TOM CLEMETT

THE walk starts at Belle Vue Terrace, on the end of which is a cast iron pipe which was one of the first gas lights installed in the town.

It was not run off town gas but off sewer gas and is aptly known as The Sewer Gas Destructor, and was made by The Sanitary Supply Co., of London and Birmingham.

Across the road from the terrace there were steps leading down to the original Wenvoe Arms Inn, which was situated behind the Post Office in Vere Street.

Further down the road on the left is Cadoxton House, built for Dr Treharne. Mr Williams also built the Royal Hotel and Jewel Street. On the left is Old Mill Farm, which was shown on some 17th century maps.

In the late 19th/early 20th century, it was farmed by the Jenkins family and probably gave a good view of the ground farmed on the moors and the old mill which was at the end of Spring Street.

Turn right past the Admiral, which was formerly the Wenvoe Arms, built for Mr Thompson, a director of Barry Dock & Railway Co., who transferred the existing licence from the old Wenvoe Arms to evade the strict licensing laws of the period.

At the top of the terrace is Shaftesbury House, in the front of which is a double glazing window business. This was built as accommodation for the staff of the Shaftesbury Temperance Hotel which stood at the junction of Main/Vere Street and was used for many years by Radio Relay, who piped radio by cable to most houses in Barry (a forerunner of cable TV).

Further down Vere Street at the junction of Harvey Street was the Palace Cinema. In 1929, it was one of the first cinemas to show talkies in south Wales. The first talking pictures shown were *Street Angel, Women who Dare'* and *Raw Recruit*. Also in Harvey Street was the Navvy Tent Mission, which opened in 1901, and the Dowlais and Merthyr Building Society.

Across the road where the Dockers Club is established were the Dunraven Rooms, which comprised of a snooker/billiard hall, café/restaurant and was the former club premises of the Conservative Club.

Behind the club is Eos House, which was the Cadoxton Hotel, one of the many premises built, which failed to get a licence to serve alcohol. The builders mistakenly thought that the road, not the railway, was to be built in the front of the premises. It had one of the most impressive entrance porches of any building in Barry, but unfortunately, it has since been partially bricked up.

Down the road are two more hotels that failed to obtain licences, Osborne Hotel (now the Conservative Club), and the Queens Hotel, which became the South Wales Bible College and is now flats.

Walking up Hillary Rise on the left is the Luchana Mission, named by a minister and his wife after a town in Spain where they carried out missionary work for many years. On the opposite side of the road is the old Cadoxton Police Station built in 1892, and has now been converted into a mosque.

Walking up Weston Hill, on the right is Courtenay Road; on the building of Gladstone Road, a number of houses in the road were demolished. Further up the hill where Western Court stands was the Weston Hill Congregational Church. On its closure as a church, it was used by the the Rev Lomas as a training centre for the unemployed to learn new skills. On its closure, it was purchased by a number of businessmen and opened as the Barry Amateur Boxing Club which over the years, produced many champions, both amateur and professional.

Moving further up the hill on the right is Milward Road, leading to the rectory. At the top of the hill at the junction of Everard Street is Holton Road Baptist 5th Barry Sea Scouts, who are housed in one of the few remaining tin churches left in Barry. This building was the original tin church, which was erected at Harbour Road for Bethel Baptists. When the congregation grew too large for the building, it was taken down and moved to its present site.

Holton Road was built in many stages, the dates at the top of the buildings ranging from 1891-1900. There are many varied styles, from two-storey to three-storey houses and shops. The most ornate style is on the corner of Lower Pyke Street, across the road is the former school board offices, now part of Holton Road School which was opened in 1892 not 1891 (which is on the date plaque). It cost £1,400 and was said to be the finest school premises in the county.

Across the road where the multi-storey car park is, was once the Barry Police Station, Magistrates Court and cells. This was demolished in 1978. Further up is the old fire station with its lookout tower, a prominent landmark that can be seen in most of Barry. On the closure of its clubhouse on Weston Hill, the Boxing Club used it for a number of years.

Opposite is the Amy Evans Hospital, another building which failed to obtain a licence (The Barry Dock Hotel) and was opened as a hospital by the former matron of Barry Hospital (which at that time was in 34 and 36 Kingsland Crescent). She thought that medical treatment for the poor and needy should be free, she was the forerunner of the National Health Service. On the garden at the back of the hospital is a small memorial stone set in the wall to her pet dog.

Impressive buildings

A number of impressive buildings are on the other side of the road, this was once named Glebe Terrace but was better known as 'Doctor's Row', the 'Towers' was Dr Livingstone's residence, Watson Street, Cora Street and Evelyn Street are named after his wife. Other doctors were Dr O'Donnell, Drs Powell and Kent, with Mr Cannell, a dental surgeon practising from 157.

The next building of importance is St Mary's Church, which ran out of funds, was never finished and still lacks among other things, a tower. Opposite is the Windsor Hotel, which opened in 1896 and could once boast an ornate cast iron canopy outside its front entrance. It was one of the first businesses to have electric light installed.

On the right hand side of Holton Road is a modern development, on the opposite side above the premises are dates from when the buildings were finished varying from 1890 to 1896; the dates do not run on, but leap from building to building. Crossing Llantwit Street, where Lloyd's Bank and Peacocks are now, was the site of the former Holton Road Methodist Church. The congregation joined with Court Road Methodists on its demolition to form Crossways Methodist Church.

During the war years, the basement was used as a British restaurant and was well patronised. The next building of any size is the Tabernacl Welsh Congregational Church built in 1894. The decorated windows in it have their counterpart further down the road in Holton Buildings.

The Town Hall opposite was opened in 1908, two years after the library. The Square has had many names, it was once known as Town Hall Square, was then given the name of King Edward Square by the Council to mark his death, but after the proclamation celebrations for the crowning of King George V in 1910, it became known as King Square.

The new shops at the bottom of Tynewydd Road were called Central Buildings and had a large bathstone tablet set in the wall with its name on it. The impressive buildings which house both the Halifax Building Society and Ferrari's were once partially occupied by Harry Press, one of the most well known fishmongers and game and poultry dealers in the Vale. Both he and his sister (Marie Press) were accomplished artists.

A great number of buildings have been altered and look out of place, but the former Howell's Chemist is the last building to be preserved in its original style in the road. Further down, the old newsagents Treasurers (now Greggs), with the post box outside, after alterations were made to its frontage, must be one of the ugliest buildings in the town. Across the road was the studio of Charles Farmer. He moved from 19 Dock View Road in 1919 to 68 Holton Road on his release from the Royal Flying Corps in which he served as a photographer in the First World War. Mr Farmer was still producing postcard of events taking place in the area until the outbreak of the Second World War. He then concentrated his talents into portrait photography in which he excelled. Not many families could say that they had not had a member of their family photographed by him.

On his semi-retirement, Ken Riddle took over the studio with Mr Farmer still putting in an appearance. This block of shops, which was built on glebe land and owned by the Church in Wales, has since been demolished and was a temporary car park; it is now Wilkinsons.

On the corner of Thompson Street at the junction with Holton Road was Professor Lloyd's Cinematograph Theatre, later to become a shooting gallery and still later the Old Penny Bazaar. In April 1910, a fire broke out in the building and a dwarf named William Walters of Plymouth, who was the operator for the cinematograph, mistook the cellar doors for the exit and was found dead in the cellar overcome with smoke.

On the other side of the road was Tibbett's, one of the old style provision shops which until its closure was still a pleasure to shop in, but was like stepping back 50 years in time.

Holton Road from Thompson Street to Greenwood Street had a cobbled surface, but after years of protest by motorists, the cobbles were finally taken up and tarmac laid, only for that to be taken up and small blocks similar to the original surface put down – that's progress! A small cobbled surface similar to that used in Holton Road can still be seen in the lane behind the former Seamen's Institute.

The building at the end of the car park is the old Barry Brass Foundry. Its speciality was brass fenders and candlesticks. Returning to Holton Road, Cash Generators has inscribed in the top of the building the name Thomas' Buildings, the next name along at the same height is Lewis Place, at one time the name Sydenham Buildings could be seen; this has since disappeared.

On the end of the block opposite (where the job centre is) once stood the Tivoli Cinema; further along is a small car park which was the Citadel, the former HQ of the Salvation Army in Barry, which before its conversion was a skating rink.

The civic offices and leisure centre stand on the site of the old gas and water works. Paul's Builders Merchants, one of the largest suppliers of building materials in the Principality stood where Ellis Fisher Court is now. The court was opened in 1990, by the then Secretary of State for Wales, Mr David Hunt.

Paul's site was once the site of the Barry Brewery; its oast house became the cement stores. Holton Farm stood on the other side of the road. At the roundabout, an ornate cast iron horse trough together with a three-armed lamp standard stood (a similar one was situated at the junction of Court Road/Gladstone Road) - both were donated to the town by Dr George Neale. The first was moved to the entrance of the car park at the Memorial Hall and has since disappeared.

The Theatre Royal opened in 1910 with seating for over 2,000, and had a roof garden over the shops on the side of the building. Opposite is the old Territorial Army Drill Hall, known as 'The Bomb and Dagger.' On its closure, it was used by the Glamorgan College of Education as a Music amd Drama studio and was sold on the demise of the college. It is now Tynewydd Funeral Home.

Alternative route

TURN right up Gladstone Road, on the back of the Cadoxton Conservative Club wall is the outline of an old building, this was the Weston Farmhouse, up past Weston Street and Forster Streets; both these streets were at one time much longer than they are now.

On the building of Gladstone Road, a number of houses in these streets were demolished. Turn down Quarrella Street, which is the next turning. This street was named after the large number of quarries situated in the area. On the right is a small terrace of houses named after battles in the South African War. Walk up Kenilworth hill, on the right at the junction of Pontypridd Street, is a pair of houses built on the foundations of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, the congregation of which moved from a small chapel on Hatch Hill in 1891.

Turn left along Pontypridd Street to Mount Pleasant past the English Baptist Church that was built in 1889. It was given the name Mount Pleasant by a pastor of the church, after the public house that he was born in. The large schoolroom built alongside was erected by voluntary labour under the supervision of Rev Fred Adams. He was not averse to taking off his coat, rolling up his sleeves and joining in the labour of building the schoolroom.

Alongside the church is a large wall belonging to the Old Court that was rebuilt in 1873. Prior to this date, the Court was in a ruinous state - it is said to have been built in the 15th century by the Andrews family. In its grounds is a 15th century columbarium (dovecote), the largest of five remaining dovecotes left in Glamorgan.

Turn right into Court Road, the small building opposite the roundabout is Bryn Zion centre for handicapped children, it was originally Bryn Sion Welsh Congregational Church.

Down Court Road, the large building on the top of Dovedale Street is 'Broomcroft', once a doctor's surgery (Dr Budge) then used by Mr Tipple, a well-known dentist in the town; it is now flats.

The opposite corner is named after the proprietor of a cycle shop (Mr Brown), who took over the business from Mr Venn just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Opposite is Calfaria Welsh Baptist Chapel (now flats) that opened its doors for worship in 1898.

Further along the road is the Court Hotel, now Court Mews (another hotel which failed to get a licence). For a great many years it was used as a laundry; this also has been converted into flats. A large building, which stood next door, was the stabling accommodation for the hotel.

This was turned into a corn and animal feed stores by Messrs Lever Bros. Mr Levers also had built Little Island, the large house next door (both have since been demolished).

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

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Family Notices

GREENWAY
James Thomas
(Jim)

Peacefully on 21st March 2016, Jim, aged 82 years, beloved husband of Doreen, a much loved father of Kevin, Keith, Kerry and Claire, a cherished and loved grandfather and great grandfather.

Jim will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A G Adams & Son until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Tuesday 12th April 2016 at 11am followed by Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu if so desired for either The RNLI, King George Fund for Sailors or Ysgol Y Deri c/o the funeral director.

DUNNE
George Francis

19.06.1961 - 23.03.2016. Aged 54.

May your tortured mind be clear and calm from the fears that gripped so tight. May the music of the angels be the sounds you hear as you're greeted by your family in heaven. Your memory will live on in our hearts.

You are dearly missed by your loving sister Erin and brother-in-law Steve, family and friends.

BIRD
Redvers (Reg)

Peacefully on March 23rd at Barry Community Hospital – Reg, well known for his time at Rondell House, Barry, former steelworker and a keen darts player. Loving partner to Caryl, much loved dad of Steve & Sue. Respected father-in-law to Glenys and Carl (Wish). Cherished Bamps to Kirsty, Emma and Great Bamps of George.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends.

Reg is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday 11th April at 2pm.

Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home, if desired donations may be made at the service or via Reg's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support the work of Cancer Research Wales. You are also welcome to leave your personal tributes and memories on this page. Futher enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

SCHMIDT
Jean C (Nina) née Burt

Jean died peacefully but suddenly in the arms of her children at Barry Community Hospital on Good Friday (25th March 2016), strong to the end and fought with dignity. Beloved wife to the late Eric, much loved mum of Ines & Lisa. Adored grandmother of Kerstin and the late Alexandra, great grandmother of Marina and great great grandmother of Luca.

Nina will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Nina was Kerstin's world. Always ready for a talk, cwtch and smile.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Cadocs, Old Village Church, Barry on Friday, 15th April at 1pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Please at Jean's request wear a bright scarf at the service.

No floral tributes. Donations if desired may be made at the service or via Jean's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where personal tributes or messages may also be made.

All donations received in aid of The British Heart Foundation or The Royal British Legion.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

BURNETT
Irene Mabel

Peacefully on March 24 at Southways, Cowbridge, Irene of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of the late Les, dearly loved mother of Lynn, Mike, Heather, Andrew and Alexandra, much loved nanna and great-nanna, sister of Dorothy, Bern and the late Ken.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, April 12, service 12 noon at St Illtuds Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.15pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose. Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

WILLIAMS
Evan David

Peacefully on March 22 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, David of Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of the late Jane, dearly loved father of Peter and Barbara, much loved by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, April 14, service 1.30pm at St Illtuds Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

HANSON
Kerry Anne
(formerly Marshall)

Peacefully on March 24th at Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth, surrounded by her loving family and friends – Kerry, aged 45 years and well known for her care work within the community.

Cherished Mum of Jordan, Aimee and Chloe.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and so many friends.

Kerry is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday 13th April at 10.00am.

Family flowers only – donations if desired may be made at the service or via Kerry's personal online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where all are welcome to leave their personal messages and memories.

All donations received to support Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth in memory of Kerry.

LEWIS (née Tudor)
Ann Margaret

Peacefully after a short illness, on Monday, March 28, at The Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Ann, of Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan, beloved wife of Chris and a loving sister, sister-in-law and aunt.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Tuesday, April 12. Service at St. Owains Church, Ystradowen at 1.45pm followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm where all friends please meet. Immediate family flowers only by request, donations if desired to Cancer Research Wales c/o Penybont Funeral Services, Meadow St, Bridgend. Tel (01656) 650831.

LLOYD
Cecilia Monica

Dear wife of the late Carroll Lloyd, died suddenly at home in Llanmaes on Sunday, March 20. She will be sadly missed by all her friends, may she rest in peace. Requiem Mass to be held at Our Lady & St Illtyds Catholic Church, Llantwit Major on Friday, April 15 at 10.30am. Thereafter private cremation.

GOULD
Jeff

Suddenly but peacefully on 10th March 2016 at Glangwili General Hospital, Carmarthen, aged 62, Jeff, beloved husband of Hazel.

He will be greatly missed by his family and his many friends.

Resting at James Summers & Son, Lavernock Court, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 5UP, until the funeral service on Tuesday 12th April 2016 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 3pm.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu if desired to Haematology (Fund No: 9420), University Hospital of Wales, c/o Cardiff & Vale Health Charity, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW.

DERRINGTON
Tony

Passed away, on Friday March 25, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness. Tony, of St. Patrick's Drive, Bridgend; beloved husband of Margaret, loving father of Siobhan and Ceri and a much loved Tony (grandfather) of Finley, Lydia, Lottie and Martha.

Funeral Friday 15 April. Service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm where friends please meet. Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to a charity of your choice. Further enquiries to Penybont Funeral Services. Tel: 01656 650831.

CLARKE
Philip

Good night, sleep well, lots of love, ***Angela xxxx***

Acknowledgements

DAVIES
Steven Anthony

Jean would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all the messages of sympathy, cards and flowers she received following the loss of her son Steven. She would also like to say thank you to all those people who generously gave donations for Tenovus.

GLOVER
Ken

Maureen and family wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, messages of sympathy, and support.

They would also like to thank the staff of ward East 6 Llandough Hospital for the wonderful care Ken received; to Dr Julian Nash and staff, Rheumatology clinic, UHW for support over many years, and to Dr Das and staff at Woodlands Medical Centre; also to the District Nursing team, and the carers from Bluebird.

Special thanks to Wendy, Ann and friends for preparing and providing the refreshments.

They also wish to thank Canon Martyn Davies, organist Meirion Evans, and John and Christine James of W James & Sons, Fonmon, for their help and guidance; also John David for his kindness in providing a copy of his music.

In Memory

SINGLETON
Kerry

Today you would have been sixty five,
Every day I wish you were well and still alive,
Taken from us in such a short time,
The love that we shared was so divine,
I miss your voice, I miss your smile,
The love you gave went the extra mile,
You're in my heart and that's where you'll stay,
Till we meet again on another day.

LOVE ALWAYS

Anniversary

Happy Anniversary

Gerwyn & Glenys Thomas

on April 12th

All our love

Liane & Iain, Carey & Emily, Dannii & Gareth and all of your grandchildren xxx

Thank You

AUSTIN
Diamond Wedding

We would like to thank Mary & Ralph for the lovely party and family get together for the 60th Anniversary

Health and happiness, lots of love, Mavis, Fred and family

Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DARREN BAKER

on 9th April, 2016

Lots of Love, Sue, Joe, Abi and all the family xxx

Happy Birthday

Gillian

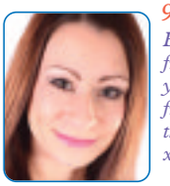
on 11th April

Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM

DANNII THOMAS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9th April



Best from your frien the (xxx

Happy 60th Birthday

Jan Austin

for the 12th April

Enjoy your party.

Lots of love Mavis & Fred, Lorraine and Vernon xxx

Jessica Beames

Happy 16th Birthday

6th April

Love from Nanny, Gramps, Andrew & Alison xxx

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Forces charity calls for support

THE Armed Forces charity SSAFA has launched an appeal for new recruits to join its volunteers.

The military charity, whose network of volunteers support serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families, has seen the number of individual home visits rise by 116 per cent between 2014 and 2015.

It is the oldest national military charity in the UK, supporting 55,000 people in the Armed Forces community each year. In the county, SSAFA has divisions in Bridgend, Cynon Valley, Merthyr and Rhondda and Taff Eye.

Sue Pillar, SSAFA director of volunteer operations and former Army Lieutenant Colonel said they desperately needed more local volunteers: "SSAFA predicts that the welfare needs of this community will continue to grow as World War Two veterans are now well into their 90s. At the same time, the impact of recent conflicts on our younger veterans and their families continues to reveal itself.

"If we take a moment to think about the courage shown and the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces while serving our country, it is shocking that we still see veterans of all ages, and their families, struggling.

"SSAFA is looking for anyone willing to help provide a lifeline to veterans and their families who are in need. Men and women who have served with our Armed Forces have given so much through service, and their families have supported them through their careers; it's now up to us to support them when they need us."

If you are interested in joining your local SSAFA team contact SSAFA on 0845 6581167 or visit www.ssafa.org.uk/newrecruits.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE next meeting of the Barry branch of the Royal British Legion will be held at 2.30pm on Monday, April 11, in the Barry Town Council Chambers, Memorial Hall.

New members are always welcome.

Follow The GEM on Twitter - find us @gem_news

GEM readers' letters extra

'Defending the indefensible'

ALUN Cairns MP is entrusted with the vote of the people of the Vale in Westminster, yet it seems that our vote is not cast as the majority of us would wish.

While Mr Cairns was defending cuts announced in the budget that further reduced support for people with disabilities, Iain Duncan Smith, a man with a poor reputation for caring, was writing a letter in which he wrote of the same cuts: *"They are not defensible"*.

I do not believe that the vast majority of the people in this constituency are in favour of these cuts, especially when they learn that this money is being used to fund tax cuts for some of the most wealthy people in society.

He specifically voted against requiring a 10-year agreement between Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd relating to Royal Mail's use of the post office network prior to the sale of Royal Mail, voted for the privatisation of the Royal Mail, and is now campaigning with the people he should represent in Westminster against the closure of the post office in Barry.

He used our vote to support the sale of our forests. The national outcry forced the UK Government to drop these plans. He cast our vote in favour of fracking, then joined the local campaign against fracking.

Last September, Mr Cairns voted to apply the Climate Change Levy tax to electricity generated from renewable sources. The UK Government continues to offer subsidies and tax breaks to the oil and gas industry.

How many people in the Vale would have wanted our vote used to deter investment in new and sustainable technologies?

He also voted against a bill this year that would have ensured rented homes are "fit for human habitation".

The MP frequently writes in this newspaper, but how often does he write about how he has cast our vote in Westminster?

The Conservative party has rewarded him for putting their interests, and those of their donors, ahead of ours with the job of Secretary of State for Wales.

Ian Perry, Vale of Glamorgan.

'Out of hours care: *a damning indictment'*

THE shocking report by the Public Service Ombudsman on out of hours hospital care is a devastating indictment of the NHS in Wales.

The low levels of staff are having a terrible impact on the quality of patient care in Wales.

It is a damning indictment of the failure to plan and manage the health service properly. How much longer do we have to view the disgusting sight of ambulances queuing for hours outside hospitals because of a lack of staff to receive patients?

Wales suffers from having one of the lowest number of doctors per head in the whole of Europe. We must train and recruit an extra 1,000 doctors and 5,000 nurses to the Welsh NHS.

The recent legislation aimed at providing safe staffing levels for the NHS is only the start.

Nic Hodges, Barry.
(Plaid Cymru)

MEMORY CAFE

A NEW Memory Café opens in the Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys on Wednesday, April 13 from 10am-11.30am – run by Murchfield Community Association with support from the Alzheimers Society.

Local councillor John Fanshaw urged: "Join us for coffee and cake on the second Wednesday of every month. The café is open to anyone affected by the early stages of memory loss, including carers, friends and family. Come and chat with others in a safe and supportive atmosphere. We hope to create a dementia-friendly community across Dinas Powys.

"Support and information will be on hand, if required. This will be a very informal morning, where the emphasis will be on simply staying an active part of the community."

For more information, contact murchfieldcommunityassoc@gmail.com.

BURNS SERIES COMPETITORS REVEL IN MUD, MUD, GLORIOUS MUD!

SQUELCHING mud did little to deter competitors in Margam's Burn Series races on Saturday and the faces of the competitors showed they were singing in the rain.

The event centre was awash but it did not deter over 150 competitors arriving to run, bike and kayak in the spectacular scenery of Margam Park.

The family events attracted the largest turnout and the young competitors found the muddy conditions an added bonus to the day's excitement.

"We managed to keep people smiling, in spite of the conditions and competitors stayed on to meet the Adventure Racing World champion, Nick Gracie and to see stage acts with nine-year-old Luca Thomson body popping and Josh Briars breakdancing on his bike," said Burn Series director Maria Leijerstam.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Barry youth denied by referee's mathematics

BARRY RFC youth entertained Cardiff Quins in what was only their third league game this season.

Quins arrived at Barry with a 100 per cent record this season and a tough afternoon was on the cards for the 'baby bombers'.

Although only being able to field 14 players due to late withdrawals, Barry started strongly with powerful play from the pack and the halfback partnership of Rose and Morgan-Grant pulling the strings.

Barry would strike first after some clever play from Morgan-Grant and a great angle run by Warry who crashed over for his first try of the season. Morgan-Grant added the extras.

Quins started to settle into the game and showed why they are unbeaten this season with some excellent play between their forwards and backs.

A set move off the back of a scrum saw a scrambling defence unable to stop the Quins winger scoring out wide; the conversion was missed.

With the game becoming a little scrappy and a few players having words the referee began to stamp his authority, giving a number of penalties to the away side which left the home side scratching their heads.

One such penalty resulted in another try for the Quins which was this time converted.

With the score now at 7-12 Barry again began to show some real determination.

Following a little darting run from Rose, who chipped over the top of the defence, Morgan-Grant was able to read the bounce, collect the ball and score under the post for a well worked try.

Rather than waiting for his kicking tee he added the two points with a drop goal.

Richards, Chucas and Boyt were working tirlessly around the rucks and mauls but the Quins sneaked in another converted try with minutes of the first half remaining.

From the restart Barry put pressure on the Quins defence, and after some strong running from Webb and good play from the forwards around the breakdown, Morgan-Grant found himself in the pocket and struck over a cool drop goal on the stroke of half-time.

With the half-time score at 17-19 the game could have gone either way with both sides looking to attack with every opportunity.

Winger Reid came alive in the second half and with some powerful running and good link up play with full back Rendall, they gave the Quins back line something to think about.

The game was to be decided by a referee's call that left the home side's supporters scratching their heads.

A penalty which was in range for Morgan-Grant would have won Barry the match.

However, after a discussion between the captain and the referee, Morgan-Grant kicked to touch.

The refeere informed the Barry side that the score was 15-19, therefore they didnt think the penalty would be enough to win the game.

The resulting lineout led to more pressure from the Barry side, however Quins held on, winning a penalty which they kicked out of play to end the game.

All credit to the 'baby bombers' for a fantastic effort.

GP

UNDER-10s IMPRESS

COWBRIDGE under-10s were visited by Pentyrch on Sunday when the teams were graced with fabulous conditions.

Like Cowbridge, Pentyrch play an expansive fast paced style of the game, so the supporters were looking forward to the game and the standard of rugby didn't disappoint.

The initial period was spent in the middle of the pitch, with both sets of forwards sizing each other up, putting in some crunching tackles and demonstrating great defence.

Pentyrch spilled the ball after a brilliant tackle by Ollie Gale and it was moved quickly out to George Tuckley who went over for the opening score of the game, only for Pentyrch to reply straight away following a missed tackle.

James Collingridge then opened his account with a weaving run through the defence.

Then followed a period of tit-for-tat tries as the backs began to get into the game, with the visitors getting the better of the exchanges scoring four tries to our two.

Our tries were scored by James C and L. Thomas, the latter of whom had a brilliant run from halfway and with many of the Pentyrch side clinging onto him, he made a last desperate stretch for the line.

The referee was unsighted and was about to bring them back for our five metre scrum, when one of the dad's said that he has caught it all on camera.

So to the amusement of the parents and boys alike, he made the customary sign for taking the decision up to the TMO (Television Match Official) which was a first for our squad. After the reviewing the footage, the try was awarded.

That decision seemed to transfer all the momentum back to Cowbridge who, demonstrating tremendous teamwork, scored four unanswered tries in the final quarter through Leo Beghini, Osian Bruce, Corey Williams and Ioan Phillips, making the final score 8-5 to Cowbridge.

Well done to all the boys from both squads who put on a great performance of excellent rugby.

AL

VALE GIRLS SHINE ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE

SEVEN players from the Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club had a fantastic experience at the weekend, representing Wales under-15 national team in the Home Nations 'Bob Docherty Cup'' held in Newport from April 1-4.

Seven players from the Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club represented Wales last weekend.

With Wales hosting the tournament this year, the Dragons put together two squads for the tournament, taking on England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

Grace Horrell, Daisy Connolly, Ruth Stanley, Lauren Harris, Sian Rees, Jasmine Rowley and Grace Corne were all selected for event with every player playing some part in the tournament, all earning Welsh caps.

On the pitch the Welsh teams found it tough against some of the home nations but they did manage to record a comfortable win against Northern Ireland at Dragon Park.

The experience has been invaluable to all the players involved and proves that with dedication and hard work there are fantastic opportunities in the female game.

Vale Girls chairman, Luke Williams commented: "It's a fantastic story to see seven players representing their country from our club given that we have only been in existence for four years.

"To see the club providing more players for the national team than some high profile names such as Liverpool, Everton, Aston Villa and Bristol Academy, really shows how far we have come in a short space of time.

"The girls have worked very hard since being part of the club and fully deserved their international recognition.

"We are lucky to have lots of talented players in our junior system and hopefully we will add the number of welsh capped players in the coming years."

The club offers football for girls from age seventhrough to senior ladies and train on a weekly basis and throughout the summer months.

All abilities are welcome so if you would like to get involved please contact us on 07772 022435, email: valegirlsfc@gmail.com or visit our website: www.valegirlsfc.co.uk.

LW

Winning golfers Bryan Wadham, Clive Edwards, Julian Kelly and Bob Glover with Anthony Taylor of Glamorgan Law Solicitors.

Farmers pay a visit to the Gower!

FAIRWOOD Park Golf Club, a Championship status golf course on the Gower peninsular, proved a popular venue recently for 42 members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, all attempting to win one of the many quality prizes supplied by generous sponsors, Glamorgan Law Solicitors of Cowbridge.

Following an extremely close encounter just one point separated the top five at the close of play, resulting in a count back over the last nine holes.

Julian Kelly, with a final score of 33 stableford points including 17 on the back nine was the winner of first prize and he received the coveted 'Walker Cup' from the sponsor's representative, Mr Tosh Taylor.

Runner up also with 33 points (16 on the back nine) was Bryan Wadham followed by Clive Edwards also with 33 (15 on the back nine). Tim Jarvis finished fourth with 32 points just ahead of Julian Golunski. Bob Glover took first prize in the section for guests with 36 points.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes, winning mouthwatering pork and chicken pies were Keith James, Dan Jarvis, Godfrey Lewis and Gwyn Thomas.

The winner of the Bear Hotel Cowbridge sponsored longest drive competition with a tee shot of over 250 yards was Chris McCarthy-Reddicliff.

Julian Kelly completed a perfect day when collecting the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky, correctly guessing 39 balls would remain out on this pleasant parkland course, raising £82 for charity.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, when members will once again have the opportunity of visiting the much-acclaimed Cottrell Park, named recently as the Welsh golf club of the year for 2015.

This event will be sponsored by local NFU agents Kelly, Harris and Conlon of Bridgend.

TMcC

LOCAL CHESS PLAYERS IN CHAMPIONSHIP ACTION

SAM Jukes was the only Barry player to take part in the Major section of the Welsh Championships.

He was ranked to finish 21st out of the 37 entrants. This turned out to be a very good performance from Sam. He earned victories against both Guy Wagner and Karanvir Lutchman-Singh.

This was supported by a number of drawn matches, the pick of which came against Charles Summers. Sam was undefeated and ended up in equal fourth place with 4.5 points from his seven games.

It possibly should have been even better because both the winner and runner-up of this section should really have been playing in the Open Section. When these results are rated Sam may have a rating in excess of 1800!

The Minor Section should perhaps be called the Barry Minor section as there were five Barry Chess Club players taking part. Peter Watkins was ranked seventh, Stephen Bonutto ninth, Merlin and Huw Davies 17th and 18th respectively and inexplicably Sam White was ranked 25th; Sam hasn't been able to play much this year due to work commitments but 25th?!

Stephen had an excellent tournament, finishing equal fourth with 4.5 points from seven games. He drew with Mohamed Bismael and Richard Livermore, the two top ranked players, and beat the eventual winner, Jake Hurley, in round one. Jake finished with six from seven.

Merlin also had an excellent tournament. He finished in 13th place with 3.5 points. He drew with Dewi Jones in round seven. Dewi has a rating of 1610 wheras Merlin has yet to reach 1000.

Merlin also beat our own Peter Watkins and John Cox from Nelson. I am sure his rating will go well over 1000 with these results.

Sam White took four points to finish equal sixth. Perhaps he would have done better still if he had not been so out of competitive practice.

It was not such a good tournament for Peter and Huw who picked up 2.5 and 1.5 points respectively to finish in 18th and 24th places out of 26.

There was also one match in the East Glamorgan Chess League when the Camelots travelled to Cardiff.

On this occasion we played the Cardiff Monarchs. As is usually the case the Camelots were outrated on every board. Our blushes were saved with an excellent victory for Rhys Steele on board one who defeated Tom Brown.

We returned home having lost 4-1. This unfortunately condemned the Camelots to relegation into division 2 having spent three eventful years in the top flight. Hopefully next season we will be more competitive in the lower division.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

The Barry and District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Team knockout cup final - Wyndham Cons 9 Cadoxton Cons 6.

League table: Wyndham Cons 157, West End 151, Liberals 149, Rhoose Social 147, West End Runaways 146, Cadoxton Cons 138, Moors Boys 132.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Team knockout cup final - Sea View B 5.5, West End C 1.5.

League table: Sea View B 99.5, West End D 86, Rugby Club 82.5, Barries Boys 76, King William XII 73.5, Rhoose Social A 72, Rhoose Social B 71.5, West End C 71, Allsorts 69.5, Slammers 65, Rhoosters 61, Liberals A 58, Liberals C 56.5, Rhoose Social C 53, Cambrian Flyers 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Team knockout cup final - Savoy A 3, Wyndham Cons A 2.

League table: Harbour B 86, Savoy A 85, Cadoxton Cons B 71, Wyndham Cons A 66, West End C 60, *Cadoxton Cons Z 50, Caddy Allstars 41, Rhoose Social B 41, Rhoose Social C 40, Penarth Cons B 39, Market Street C 37.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Team knockout cup final - Penarth Cons A 3, Savoy B 2.

League table: Services Social B 78, Liberators 72, Penarth Cons A 71, Market Street B 68, Savoy B 68, Wyndham Cons C 61, Cadoxton Cons A 53, West End A 47, Sully Sports A 41, West End B 34, Wyndham Cons D 32 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Tennis club's open day

'ANYONE for tennis' is the call from Barry Athletic Tennis Club as it launches a new season with its open day at 2pm on Saturday April 9, opening its doors to new and old members, as well as a regular programme of tennis coaching for all ages.

The club is based on Barry Island, in the grounds of Barry Athletic Club - just behind the promenade on the Island. Members can enjoy year-round tennis with our four high quality all weather courts, including one floodlit court, and offers beginners' tennis, juniors, coaching for juniors and seniors, social tennis, and social activities for our members.

Barry Athletic Tennis Club is run by volunteers with any profits re-invested back into the club's activities and facilities

For more details visit barrytennis.co.uk.

AG

The Dinas ladies reach cup final

Dinas Powys Ladies FC

DINAS POWYS Ladies FC believed they could pull off a shock as they travelled to Aberdare Ladies in the Cup semi-final.

The Villagers started at a very high tempo and rarely took their foot off the gas. Emma Lewis set the standard as she showed why she is regarded as a strong defender with a very hard tackle in the opening 10 minutes that lifted the visitors.

Dinas pushed on and were playing some great football high up the park with a lot of running off the ball; the centre midfield of Joanne Blackman-Jones and Samantha Saunders were able to win a lot of second ball and kept the pressure on.

Molly Chapman was a real thorn in the Aberdare defence as she made run after run and never gave the home side time to play.

When Rachel Beare was able to play Chapman in, the Aberdare keeper was forced to take her out for a penalty.

Captain Leanne Pattemore cooly placed it high and right to put Dinas in front on 15 minutes. Instead of sitting back, Dinas upped their game, looking for a second and it came as Rachel Beare cut in to score from 20 yards.

Seeing the half out, Pattemore, Cordy, Elison and Lewis had to be at their very best and they delivered a no-nonsense approach when defending as they stuck together as a solid unit and provided great protection for Lea Phillips, as well as a great platform to play from.

After a little reminder at the break that nothing was won yet, Dinas came out and produced a very disciplined display as every Dinas girl worked tirelessly for the cause.

Jodie Bowles and Laura May Lewis showed their strengths in the second half, stopping Aberdare from creating anything wide and setting the red and blacks on the front foot time and time again. As the game moved on, the Villagers took complete control with Saunders and Jones pulling the strings.

Molly Chapman thought she had increased the lead, striking the post, then moments later Pattemore smashed a 25-yard free kick against the underside of the bar, only for it to bounce out.

Dinas welcomed back Stephanie Garner-Joel for her second spell at the club and she made an impact, coming on for Emma Cordy, who had a fine performance in the heart of the defence.

It was only a matter of time before the third goal came as the Villagers kept a relentless pace and tempo.

Molly Chapman managed to get to the ball before the advancing Aberdare keeper and it calmly looped in from 20 yards. This was nothing more than the young Dinas striker had deserved.

All Dinas had to do now was run the clock down and they showed just how much they have improved at game management.

Beare and Bowles, who put in a shift that got them a big round of applause, were replaced by Danielle Speight and Louise Bickel.

Speight nearly made it four in the final minutes as the keeper spilled a Lewis shot across her path, but the final score was 3-0 to Dinas Ladies who now await to see who they have in the final on April 17 at Taffs Wells' ground.

LS

Barry and District mens skittles league

DIVISION 1:

B.P. Breakaways (V. Harris 27) Total 247, Blue Monkey (N. Stokes 28) Total 272; Bunker Boys (S.Hobbs 28) Total 291, Barry Park B (B. Hopkins 28) Total 249; Cavaliers (Hatcher, Lewis 30) Total 301, Geest (R. Jones 29) Total 289; Colcot Boys (G. Mills 28) Total 274, 49's (K. Yarr 30) Total 279; Ex Servicemen (G. Dent 27) Total 249, Sea View (B. Belby 27) Total 269.

Division 2:

Exiles (A. Collins 30) Total 283, Cannon Balls (R. Harding 30) Total 296; Posties (M. Gallimore, B. Usher 30) Total 268, Park Rangers (P. Murphy, S. Dite 29) Total 263; Royalists (B. Nicholas, I. Tambling 29) Total 272, Park Lads (D. Jones 27) Total 250; Tynewydd Lads (S.Sluman 35) 282, Witchill Poachers (S.Rogers 29) 291; Tynewydd Lads (D.Curtis 33) 303, Park Lads (M.Jones D.Jones 27) 273; Willie Wombles (P. Taylor 30) Total 295, "H" Bells (M. Ling 29) Total 280; Witchill Poachers (M. Fiddler, R. Connell 34) Total 362, Buffs Exiles (R Miller 34) Total 348.

Division 3:

Billy Bluebirds (R. Angel 27) Total 270, C.U.D (R. Tipple 30) Total 276; Glenbrook Rangers J.McGhan 28) 287, The Alternatives (M.Anthony 31) 249; Mariner Vikings (S. Grant 27) Total 248, British Rail (L. John 30) Total 244; West End Fliers (L.dite 31) 269, British Rail (L.Jones 29) 282.

HR

Finals day at bowls club

SULLY Indoor Bowls Club are holding their ladies and men's competition finals on Saturday and Sunday, April 9/10.

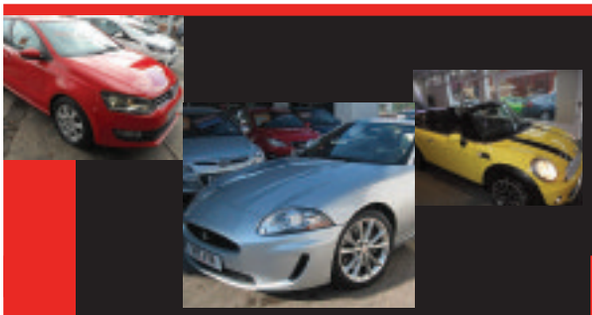
There are a total of 13 finals with both ladies and men's singles championships being scheduled for Sunday afternoon.

The first games will start at 10am on Saturday and will consist of the men's triples, senior pairs and ladies triples; these games will be followed at 2pm by the men's senior championship, open rinks and the ladies drawn rinks.

Sunday finals will commence once again at 10am with the men's pairs, over-50 triples, ladies pairs and the new mixed pairs competition followed at approximately 2pm by the men's and ladies championships including the ladies Mgt. Osbourne singles cup.

Refreshments will be available from 9am throughout the days.

FP



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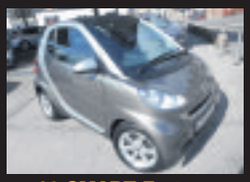

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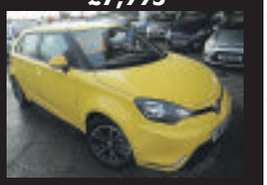

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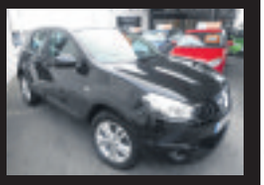

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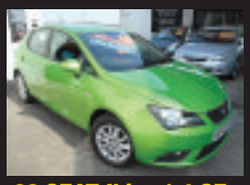

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Barry seconds romp to big win over Clwb

James Hollister bursts through for a try. ALL PICTURES BY HOWARD POOLE.

BARRY second XV returned to league action on a crisp spring day with Clwb Rygbi their visitors.

Coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow were afforded the luxury of not having any players dropping out on the eve of the game, and were able to field a settled side which included welcome returns for Marvin Cordle and Darren Deguara.

The improvement in the preparations was apparent right from the off as Barry put Clwb under early pressure in the scrum, with the front row of Gareth Hall, Liam Ring and James Hollister completely dominant, winning opposition ball with ease.

The pressure soon told when from a set piece on the CRCC five-metre line, Deguara forced his way over for the first try of the game. Joel Williams added the extras.

With Barry completely dominant in all departments it was a shock to see the visitors venture into the home 22, but their ruthlessness in attack was rewarded with an unconverted score.

Shaken by that show of defiance, Barry pushed their foot on the accelerator and tightened their grip on their game further – a grip that they would not let go until the final whistle.

Patient build-up play by the forwards saw the home side edge towards the whitewash, and from only metres out there was no stopping Hollister, who crashed over for his sixth try of the season. Williams' conversion was a formality.

The floodgates were now blasted open. Barry were attacking from all angles, and it was no surprise when Cordle raced clear to score underneath the posts for yet another converted score.

Marvin Cordle scores his second of the game.

When Cordle broke the Clwb line again, he this time turned provider for Rhys Knapman to sprint through, and he touched down underneath the posts. With the bonus point secured, Williams added the extras.

By this point the visitors were begging for the interval but their misery was compounded when Knapman finished off a neat move to score in the corner for an unconverted try to bring to score 33-5 at half-time.

There was no let up in the second half, as substitute Tiernan Scott crashed over for a try with his first touch of the game. Williams was again successful with the conversion to keep the scoreboard ticking.

The side from the capital had no answer to the power and finesse of Barry's attacks. As their defensive line was breached again, the supporting Knapman was on hand to complete his hat-trick. Williams somehow managed to miss the extras from in front of the posts before limping off injured.

A reshuffle in the backline saw flanker Owain Poole moved to full-back – a role that he excelled in when he fielded a ball in his own 22 and sidestepped two would-be tacklers, before a booming kick earned his team 50 yards.

There was still time for Curtis Miller to force his way for another try, with Scott's conversion successful, before Cordle finished off the scoring with Hall his provider.

The final score of 57-5 was a reflection of Barry's dominance over the 80 minutes. This is a result of the hard work and dedication of the players over the course of the season and in training. The management is proud to be working with this set of players.

Barry second XV host Dinas Powys in the league this Saturday.

Team: Clarke; Evans, Cordle, D Williams, Knapman; J Williams ©, Mepham; Hall, Ring, Hollister; Deyes, Dutton; Goodfellow, Poole, Deguara. Replacements: Turnbull, Sullivan, Miller, Scott. Man of the match: Knapman. **KC**

BUSY EASTER FOR PG10 COACHING

THE Easter holidays proved to be a busy time at the Vale Sports Arena, as PG10 hosted a popular soccer camp with a guest appearance from Wales legend Neville Southall.

Hundreds of children and young people aged between 6-14 years old were given opportunities to learn new skills and techniques on the new state of the art FIFA-regulated 3G pitch as well as opportunities to get fit and active in the new gym, spin bike room and conditioning area.

Following on from the success of the soccer camp, a special event at the Vale Sports Arena and Principality Stadium will be held to celebrate Wales' qualification for Euro 2016 - for information please contact *info@valesportsarena.co.uk*.

PG

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for March 21:

First division: SV Gals (V Pycroft 34) 218, Barry Stars (M Richards 29) 300; Special Angels (P Grisdal 32) 267, Family Affair (S Vincent 30) 264; Space Finders (N Morris, M Clark, D Carter 32) 341, Family & Friends (J Phillips 38) 347; Coppers (D Nesbitt 35) 336, Castle Bandits (M Cooper 34) 312; Baker's Dozen (M Rockett 26k) 256, Cigar Ladies (J Wood 31) 267; Bobby's Girls (S Sugden 30) 261 Breakaways (C Parfitt 29) 238; Allsorts (C Romain, H Bunting 28) 269, Colcot Ladies (C Fenton 26) 244.

Second division: Pila Palas (R Webb 32) 309, Witchill Weebies (N Harrhy, S Lou 30) 294; Castaways (G Drew 32) 297, Red Admiral (A Williams 31) 284; Little Devils (J H Jones 24) 224, Rhoose Starlights (P Tucknett, G Richardson 24) 239; Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 29) 244, S V Lights (B Kenefick 27) 234; Merry Makers (E Page 25) 183, Witchill Widows (N Barnfield 23) 203.

Third division: Rugby Triers (A Williams, J Bellinger 22) 224, Twilights (S Haysom, L Sims, S Boulton 24) 231; Hill Billies (E Anzani, G Moorcraft 30) 310, Dolly Mixtures (L Marsh 32) 311; Persuaders (B Organ 29) 217, Roller Coasters (S Thomas, M Burgess, J Fairweather 22) 229; Westender (R Morgan, C Gee 25) 218, Friends & Neighbours (E Western 25) 212; La Belles (L Hughes 30) 299, Fallen Angels (K McNery 35) 329; S V Ladies (S Holden 32) 308, Airways Angels (J Nash 29) 283.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (G Fifield 21) 135, Hell Raisers (M Davies 29) 200; Challengers (M Griffiths 32) 305, Witches (M Allon 29) 270; Witchill Wanderers (V Kerslake 32) 257, Optimists (P Williams 32) 301; Rebels (L Spurr 24) 186, Living On A Spare (S Townsend 25) 216; Uptown Girls (C Miller, J Marsh) 216, Socialites (K Glover 23) 201; Odd Bods (T Ceriani 29) 228, Nite Outers (L Armstrong 28) 250.

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www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Evan's double delight at Southwell!

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams sent two horses to Southwell on Tuesday – and won with both of them.

His six-year-old *Aqua Dude* won the novices' hurdle coming home three and a half lengths ahead of *Present View*, and his five-year-old *Wylde Magic* took the closing National Hunt Flat race finishing seven lengths ahead of *Get Rhythm*.

Both were ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney and the former went off at odds of 11-4 and the latter at 15-8.

YSTRAD TAF POINT-TO-POINT

Point-to-point steeplechasing returns to the Vale on Sunday, April 10, when the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt hold their annual point-to-point races at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen.

There will be seven races with the first of them at 2pm and the principal race of the day will be The John Lovell Memorial Mens Open Race at 3.45pm

Cardiff bookmaker John Lovell was responsibe for introducing computerised betting to British racecourses and was a great supporter of point-to-point racing in Wales.

The jockey to watch out for over this tricky undulating course is Bradley Gibbs who at the recent Glamorgan Hunt Steeplechases rode three winners.

Local riders Tom and Evan David are two other riders who rode winners at the previous meeting.

BRIAN LEE

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A bonus point victory for Cowbridge RFC

COWBRIDGE RFC travelled to St Albans on Saturday and in an entertaining game came away with a much-needed and well-deserved bonus point win.

The wet morning gave way to a sunny afternoon. After three straight losses Cowbridge needed a win. However within four minutes young Dan Holder was yellow carded for coming in at the side.

Taking advantage of that a minute later St Albans drove over the line from a lineout for an unconverted try.

Cowbridge responded and from a kick ahead, a scrum five metres out saw the ball moved left and outside half Huw Loughor ghost through for a try that full back Ben Wright converted.

The Buns were back in the lead on 15 minutes with a break by their outside centre and pick up at the ruck for their No 8 to dive over. Their outside half added the extras.

A good Tom James break in the centre led to a penalty that Wright put over.

Then on 23 minutes hooker Ieuan Griffiths was yellow carded for an illegal tackle, and then, two minutes later, The Buns' flanker was unexpectedly sent off for a swinging arm. There was no doubting the referee's impact in this game.

The Buns had much bigger forwards and tremendous efforts from Cowbridge's No 8 Ross Gibbon and then James held up drives over the Cowbridge line.

The scoring continued as The Buns' right wing was released to get over in the corner and in extra time, following two good Loughor breaks, the ball came right and Wright went inside then out before putting right wing Jonny Graham in at the corner. Wright put over a terrific conversion for a half-time score of 17-14.

Into the second half and The Buns struck first with a penalty for not releasing. On the eight minute mark Cowbridge took the lead for the first time; taking a penalty as a scrum, the ball was spun left for centre James to outstrip the defence from 25 metres with Wright adding the extras.

On 12 minutes the Buns lost their second row to the sin bin. Taking advantage from recycled ball from a ruck, Richie Howson, playing flanker, burst through a gap near to the ruck to cross for a converted try.

Cowbridge's last try came from a kick into their 22 which Howson moved to the left and linked with Wright and then speedy wing James Phillips to cut inside the defence and cross from 30 metres out for a converted try.

The Buns came back with a try from a drive over the line. Wright completed a faultless display with a penalty.

As the play went into extra time The Buns completed the scoring with a try for their outside centre, giving a final score of 32-38.

It was disappointing that with injuries and unavailability we had to play passive scrums, but the team defended for their lives against bigger opponents, with young forwards Holder and Jordan Wyatt in the thick of it and experienced Ross Gibbon and Emyr Stone prominent.

Behind, the backs ran directly and linked up, something missing in previous games. Adam Dix at scrum half had a great game, releasing the backs to show their running ability. Well done boys.

Last week we reported on the youth BF team's victory and on the same Saturday Cowbridge youth first team entertained Merthyr youth at home in the BA league.

The game was eagerly anticipated and Cowbridge started well and as expected the first encounters were very physical.

Fullback Josh Thomas broke the deadlock with a fine individual finish when he was not held in the tackle and managed to get straight to his feet and race free from the covering defence to score under the posts.

Cai Evans converted, in his first start of 2016 after regional commitments.

Ben Jones, on his first start since dislocating his shoulder representing the district in January, was in fine form in the loose and his support work thoughout the game saw him earn a well-deserved hat trick of tries.

While there is still a lot to work on before the Welsh youth cup semi-final, Cowbridge continue to play an expansive game.

Some great play from centres Cameron Gibbon and Ashford Thomas saw numerous line breaks leading to tries for Joe Davies and James Holder.

Cowbridge also welcomed back Eddie Drake from Wales under-18 duty, who made an immediate impact with a try under the posts. Evans competed a faultless kicking display to convert seven from seven.

Merthyr, to their credit, kept going right to the end and scored two tries of their own late in the second half. The final score was Cowbridge youth 49, Merthyr youth 14.

This Saturday the youth first team travel to Llandarcy Academy take on Llanelli Wanderers in the semi-final of the National Youth Cup.

Already a fantastic achievement, they will be looking to go at least one step further. The kick off is at 4pm and all support will be more than welcome.

There will be a bus leaving the club at 2pm for the youth cup semi-final at the Llandarcy Academy, leaving for Cowbridge at 7pm.

The senior first team have no game this Saturday with Taffs Well playing in a cup game. Bizarrely that should have been the last game of the season, but with such a backlog of fixtures we will be playing well into May.

The next game is away at Penygraig on Wednesday, April 13, kicking off at 7.15pm, followed by Tylorstown at home on Saturday, April 16.

RV/RK/RH

Lasers on target in tournament

WEDNESDAY, March 30 saw the Cardiff and Vale District social netball tournament hosted at the House of Sport, Cardiff.

There were eight teams competing in the event including the newly established Llantwit Major Lasers. This was the Lasers' debut tournament as they have not played competitively before as a squad.

Their first game was against Barry B; despite first time nerves, the Lasers got off to a great start. It was a strong team effort but impeccable shooting from Lizzie Davies ensured that the final scored resulted in a win for the Lasers, 14-2.

Their second game was against Jesters. A combination of solid play from centre court players Annabel Ingram and Kate Post along with great defensive work from Jodie Ackland, Sarah Thomas and Bethan Lewis guaranteed the Lasers won their second game 10-4.

It was at this point that the reality of winning the tournament seemed somewhat achievable for the Lasers.

However their next opponents, Llantrisant, had looked strong during their first two games. This game could could only be described as end to end netball.

Both teams displaying excellent skill and discipline throughout the game. The Lasers fought for every loose ball but the final score ended 11-10 to Llantrisant.

Despite the previous game, Llantwit Lasers made it through to the semi-finals playing against Pendragons.

It wasn't long before they found their flow, Rachel Cosier and Holly Howles working the ball well through the court allowing shooters Claire Lamerton and Lizzie Davies to finish it off.

Lasers defenders Linda Woodley and Sarah Thomas once again safeguarded the defending area, forcing the Pendragons to make errors, resulting in a victory for the Lasers and ensuring a place in the final.

There was only one team preventing Llantwit from winning the tournament. Creigau had previously won their match against Llantrisant so the girls knew that it was going to be a tough game.

Llantwit took control of the game from the first centre pass and they were determined to move the ball quickly into the shooters. After an intense and aggressive game Llantwit Lasers came away as the winners of the tournament, with the final game ending 10-7.

Overall a fantastic day for Llantwit Lasers with the tournament being played in good spirit by all teams involved.

Llantwit will receive their first place trophy/medals at a presentation evening in June, as well as being invited to play in the Cardiff and District Winter Netball League.

This was the start that the Lasers needed in preparation for the summer league which they will be playing in.

The team is currently looking for sponsorship from local businesses to provide new kit for the squad so please email beth_mairevans@hotmail.co.uk if you would be interested in supporting a local team.

BE

Tim's 20-1 winner

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan saw his six-year-old bay gelding DadsIntrouble land the handicap hurdle at Wincanton on Monday.

Ridden by Alan Johns, the 20-1 outsider, who was racing for the first time in nearly a year, won by two-and-a-half lengths from the top weighted Alberta.

BRIAN LEE

Preparations for new season going well at Cowbridge Cricket Club...

THERE'S less than a month to go before the start of the 2016 cricket season and preparations are well advanced at Cowbridge Cricket Club.

The GEM carried news of the replacement of the artificial practice net carpets a while back and their installation is due during the week of April 11.

The scorebox will be repaired to 'as new' condition and it is hoped that the new shed will be in place during the early part of the season.

All these renewals will bring the club's infrastructure up to scratch and hopefully last as long as the items being replaced have.

The club's re-painting programme, which the retired members undertake, will be on April 25.

To pay for the investments and indeed to just run itself, the club relies on a wide range of fundraising activities.

The junior section parents are running a duck race on the evening of April 29.

The major fundraiser, the golf day, will be held at The Vale of Glamorgan Resort on June 2.

Once again the club is indebted to the Leeke family for their help with the event.

Currently there remains room for four teams at £200 per team with golf, welcome coffee and bacon rolls and a golfers supper - details from Jeffrey Bird on 07976 793629.

The playing highlight will be the rearranged fixture with MCC who kindly agreed to re-arrange by a year the washed out 175th anniversary match of last year.

This will take place on Friday, July 2, and on the following Sunday the ever popular 'president's lunch' will take place and the club will welcome Bridgend as opponents on the field.

All this activity has a serious side to it - new captain Chris Willy commented: "We are going all out to win the Dan Radcliffe Cup and get into the South Wales Premier League.

"Anything short of that will not be regarded as acceptable by the team in particular."

The club's next update will carry more of the captain's plans to take Cowbridge to the pinnacle of south Wales club cricket.

AB

News from Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club

SPRING heralds the beginning of yet another season of competitions at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

However, the winter competitions ended with the final of the Cocks of the North being played between Mike Sullivan and Derek Edwards against Chris John partnered by Ian Booth.

Both pairs had battled through some very damp Sunday mornings for the last six months to reach the final.

Chris, the club captain, sacrificed the last few days of a Portuguese holiday to turn out for the final - sadly his dedication to the cause was to no avail and Mike and Derek emerged as deserved champions.

The first Summer competition, the Pavilion Cup, was played in testing conditions and from a field of 136 players Gary Diplock emerged victorious, scoring 40 points; David Phillips was runner-up with 39 points.

The veteran section have also started their cup competitions and Mike Rennie won the R.D.Thomas Cup with a score of 36 points.

IB

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday March 29, because of the Easter weekend, there were no dart matches scheduled.

As a consequence the league standings remain unchanged: Edmondes B (97 points), Highwayman Inn (83), Llanharry (81), Six Bells Inn (75), Farmers Arms (68), Edmondes A (66), Edmondes C (64), Farmers B (H&H) (56) and Old Post Ladies (22).

This Tuesday, April 12, the final evening of league matches will be played. This season's champions the Edmondes B hosts the Farmers Arms. In the race for second place Llanharry hosts the Edmondes C and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Old Post Ladies. In the other match the Farmers B (H&H) hosts the Edmondes A. The Six Bells Inn have already played all their league matches.

The evening of darts starts at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

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